

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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Council chooses name for new road

A NEW road in Oswestry will be named after a teacher, writer and naturalist who was born in the town.

The road has been created off Swan Lane following the demolition of flats to make room for 19 new houses.

At Monday night's meeting of Oswestry Town Council councillors were asked to vote on a name for the road, and decided that it should be named after Mary Hignett.

Mrs Hignett was a local writer who penned books on her childhood in Oswestry and about some of the walks in the surrounding countryside.

She was also a respected teacher, and on her death left half her substantial estate to the Rotary Club of Oswestry, which now administers a trust fund in her name.

A list of names had been suggested by town residents and four had been short-listed for the council to choose from - Hignett Place, Clifford Place, Pullman Court or Place and Merritt Court or Place.

Councillor Shirley Best said: "I would suggest Mary Hignett Place."

"We've got very few places in this town that recognise the women who have contributed to Oswestry's education and standing."

"Just saying Hignett Place doesn't do her justice, so I would ask for Mary Hignett Place."

Continental market set for streets

THE smells and flavours of the continent will be around Oswestry this weekend as council bosses continue to stage events aimed at increasing the number of visitors to the town.

A continental market will be set up on Saturday organised by Oswestry Town Council.

A selection of food and craft stalls from all over Europe will be located within the town centre.

Town council markets manager David Clough said: "If you like food this event is for you."

"There will be stalls selling fresh bread, olives, cheeses, pastries, sausage and even some crafts."

Uri Geller flies in for gorilla unveiling



Uri Geller with the giant gorilla at the British Ironworks Centre in Oswestry

ILLUSIONIST Uri Geller and His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent flew to Oswestry to unveil a gorilla sculpture made entirely of spoons - designed especially for the TV star's garden.

Hundreds of invited guests and local dignitaries attended the event at the British Ironwork Centre in Aston near Oswestry on Saturday.

The 12ft and 2.5 tonne sculpture was made from around 40,000 spoons, which had been donated from all around the globe.

It was made by the company for spoon-bender, who plans to put it on display in his garden as an attraction for the terminally children he regularly invites round for visits.

His Royal Highness is a good friend of Mr Geller, and was asked to perform the unveiling.

The pair arrived by helicopter to reveal the sculpture before taking a tour of the British Ironwork Centre.

Staff at the centre wore union jack bow-ties for the occasion, where guests could enjoy a hog roast, crepes, a champagne toast and take a look at some of British Ironwork's other creations.

Mr Geller and his Royal Highness spent lots of time talking to assembled guests, with Mr Geller bending spoons brought by some of those in attendance.

Following the official unveiling, Mr Geller said: "I am simply stunned. This is not to raise funds, this is just to amaze the people who come to my house who are not well."

Clive Knowles, from the British Ironwork Centre, said: "I never believed this project would turn out like this, it's so beautiful. I'm so relieved that it has been finished."

"It has been four or five months of work and it has been absolutely full on, every day."

"Some nights we have been working straight through but it is absolutely unbelievable how it all came together."

● Full Story - See Page 6

Tenants' group is to hold first AGM

COUNCIL tenants in the Oswestry area are being urged to attend the annual meeting of the group which represents their interests.

Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing's Tenants Working Group (TWG) will stage its annual general meeting on June 12 at The Centre in Oak Street in Oswestry.

The housing group took over the running of 4,200 council homes in Oswestry and Bridgnorth in April last year.

The group is charged with making a positive difference for tenants, residents and leaseholders, by helping to address local issues, increase tenant satisfaction and create a sense of community spirit.

Margaret Smith, chair of the group, said: "The Tenant Working Group's annual general meeting is a great opportunity for tenants to learn about what we do."

"The annual general meeting next month will also be a celebration of the TWG's achievements from the last 12 months, and tenants will be able to hear from the Chair of Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing's Board, Nicki Barker."

Housing staff will also be available to answer questions.

To book a place, or arrange transport, call (01743) 210205.

The group are keen to recruit new members - call 07811 582762 for more information.

Police seek witnesses to burglary

POLICE in Welshpool are appealing for information after a house burglary.

Dyfed-Powys Police said a home in Bluebell Drive was broken into sometime over the weekend.

The force said it is not yet known what was stolen but appealed for anyone in the area with private CCTV to come forward.

Anyone who witnessed a vehicle or people people acting suspiciously in or around these areas is asked to contact Detective Constable Amy Davies at Newtown CID or call 101 or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.

WIND FARM BID WILL FAIL - MP

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build wind farms and pylons across Mid Wales are "not going to happen", Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has claimed.

by Andrew Morris

and I am now wondering if the inspector Andrew Poulter will listen or bow to the bullies.

"Shareholders in National Grid really should be outraged by the money being wasted on the Mid Wales Connection Project. It is not going to happen. Listen."

Dr Constable told the wind farm inquiry in Welshpool that there was "no need" to build more on-shore wind farms in Mid Wales as government targets have already been met.

The inquiry, which started last June and is due to finish next week, is into proposed wind farms in Llanbadarn Fynydd, near Llandrinod Wells, Llaithddu, near Newtown, Llandinam, near Llanidloes, and Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen, near Machynlleth, plus a 132kv overhead electric line connection from Llandinam to the Welshpool substation.

Dr Constable told the inquiry at the Royal Oak Hotel: "On-shore wind is already at or

above a reasonable level. There is no further need for further consents for on-shore wind."

Peter Minto, from Natural Resources Wales backed Dr Constable's claims, saying: "There is not a great need to pepper pot Wales with these developments."

The Alliance attempted to submit a new document to the inquiry, which spokesman Brett Kibble said showed the full impact of existing and planned wind farms, but planning inspector Andrew Poulter told them it was too late.

But Mr Poulter said if he accepted the new document, he would have to allow all other parties the chance to look into it and prepare responses, so refused to accept it as further evidence.

He added: "I have to ask myself if I have enough information on cumulative impact in front of me and the answer is - yes I do."

Next week, the developers and The Alliance will all give closing statements, before Mr Poulter retires to consider his verdict.



Glyn Davies, MP

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PICTURE PREVIEW



Best work of Oswestry Orthopaedic staff is marked at awards ceremony

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Artists are lining up for town's day of live music

by Graham Breeze

ORGANISERS have named the line-up for Welshpool's annual music extravaganza which takes place on Sunday.

The 2014 Welshpool Music Festival is all set to rock the town on Bank Holiday Sunday with seven town pubs staging a day of live music.

The full line up is: The Royal Oak, Danny Ansell, Ian Bourne, Rose Cheney, Sonya Smith, Steve Madden, Exclusive, Frankie Wesson, Jack Taylor, James Herring, Rosie Green, Eleanor Brown, John Meldrum, Sally Crosby and Bethany Bryan.

Town goes crazy for cheap fish and chips

QUEUES stretched down the street outside a chippy as staff served up nearly 500 portions of fish and chips in four hours - for 99p each.

Salop Fish Bar in Salop Road, Oswestry, offered the bargain meals on Saturday as part of a promotion with the Norwegian Seafood Council.

Takeaway owner Harry Haralanbous said the shop was inundated with people wanting to have a taste of the cut price fish and chips.

"It was fantastic, the shop was completely heaving and queues were out of the door and all the way up the road," he said.

"The weather helped as well, because people were prepared to wait outside.

"We signed up to do 400 99p portions but we ended up doing 498, all by 4.10pm. The business carried on all night. It was a cracking day.

"It was for the bicentenary of the Norwegian Seafood Council, so I don't think they'll do it again, but if they did we'd absolutely sign up to do it again."

Bistro 7: James Herring, Steve Edwards, Rosie Green, Ollie Jones, Sally Crosby, Ian Smith, Rose Cheney, Leon Turffit, Frankie Wesson, Jack Taylor, Keith Fabrique, Scott Roberts and Sonya Smith.

The Wellington: Karaoke, Sally Crosby, Bethany Bryan, Scott Roberts, Kuldip and open mic all afternoon.

The Angel: Statice Attic, Cathy Beach, Scott Roberts, Billy Spencer & The Backliners, James Herring, Reggae Ting, Steve Madden, Ian Bourne, Off Axis, Rosie Green and Eleanor Brown.

The Pheasant: Billy Spencer and The Backliners, Naughty Alice, John Meldrum, Off Axis, Ian Smith, Skin Deep, Scott Roberts, The Unknown Road, Ollie Jones, The Siren Effect and Steve Madden.

The Talbot: Rolobenz, Steve Edwards, The Unknown Road, Danny Ansell, Naughty Alice, Cathy Beach, Jo Le Taxi, James Herring, Pourfit, Reggae Ting and Statice Attic.

The Green Dragon: Skin Deep, Stay Awake, Frankie Wesson, Not For Real, Bethany Bryan, Statice Attic, Sonya Smith, The Siren Effect, Hunting Crows, Sally Crosby and Off Axis.

Music festival raises £1,000 for charity



Rev Stuart Jermy hands over the cheque for £964.82 to Karl Hartey of The Charlotte Hartey Foundation

A MUSIC and arts festival which held its inaugural event last week has presented almost £1,000 to charity.

The organisers of Weston Rhyn Music & Arts Festival handed over a cheque for £964.82 to the Charlotte Hartey Foundation, with more money still coming in.

The money was raised last week with a series of concerts and art exhibitions at St John's Church in Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry.

Karl Hartey, the head of the foundation, thanked everyone who attended and said he had been impressed with

the amount of talent on display at the week-long festival.

He said: "It showed in a small community there's all this talent but no one knows where it is. This gave the opportunity for it to be displayed and for people to see the wonderful talent in the local community.

"There was an 11-year-old boy doing origami. I never saw anything like it. It was amazing.

"He'd have a piece of paper and then dragons would pop up and birds. It was amazing to see what he could make out of a square bit of paper.

"Then there was wood carving and one lady who did beautiful embroidery pictures with sewing. Another lady did lovely pictures with lace.

"There were so many different forms of art all under one roof, and all local from within a couple of miles. I think people were quite blown away by what's on our doorstep. Some of the art was really, really excellent, and all of it was good."

Mr Hartey said the festival had helped to bring the village together, and that he would like to see it take place again next year.

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Plans to excavate castle go to council

EXCAVATIONS could take place on a Norman motte and bailey castle at Oswestry - as historians reveal that an ancient wall could be unearthed on its remains.

The motte still exists in the centre of Oswestry tucked away behind the open air market in Bailey Head.

It was transformed into a public garden in Victorian times and is now looked after by the town council.

Now the Oswestry and Border History and Archaeology group has put forward a scheme for an excavation of part of the castle, which dates back to the 12th century.

In a 'Time Team' type event the excavation could link into one of Britain's major history events.

Project manager and archaeologist Roger Cooper says in a report to Oswestry Town Council: "There is a clear feature running diagonally from the base of the castle mound retaining wall across the grassed area and adjacent small shrubbery south of the mound."

A recent application for Heritage Lottery funding has been submitted for the project by the history and archaeology group.

The council was due to discuss the proposal at the Guildhall last night (Wednesday).

Police seek witnesses

POLICE in Llanfyllin have appealed for witnesses after a parked black Mitsubishi L200 pick-up was hit by another vehicle between 11.30pm on May 12 and 6am on May 13.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact Llanfyllin Police on 101.

Opposition voiced over school's uniform plans

by Pam Kingsley

PARENTS and pupils are being asked to give their views on proposed new uniform trousers and skirts at a school in Oswestry.

The Marches School is proposing to introduce the standardised items, which will be branded with the school logo, in September.

But some parents have claimed the plan will put an unwanted financial strain on them.

Huge cash injection for hospital by friends

HARDWORKING volunteers have raised more than £39,000 for the League of Friends at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Chairman of the League's executive committee, Tricia Norris, speaking at the annual meeting, said that despite the economic gloom branches had beaten the previous year's total and managed to raise £39,103 last year.

She added that the shop and coffee shop had now been operating in the hospital's new entrance for a year and that they had an accumulated profit of £72,576.

The Oswestry Rheumatology Association, which is closely linked to the League, also raised £5,713 in 2012.

Mrs Norris said: "I am immensely grateful for the sterling efforts of all our members and I am always impressed by the number and variety of functions they organise."

"We are extremely lucky to have such loyal and innovative supporters and are very appreciative of them."

Diana Cameron, from Harlech Close, Oswestry, has two daughters at the school and said she is currently able to cut costs on uniform by buying from supermarkets.

She said: "I, like many parents, have a tight budget, especial in these economic times. Branding trousers and skirts in this manner adds to costs. I like having the freedom to purchase my children's uniform from supermarkets as you get good quality and discounts, and a wide range of sizes."

"I agree with a logo on a uniform jumper or blazer, as it is good for safety and it is a good and quick way of identifying school pupils. The idea was to help keep cost down, which in turn helps prevent some of the bullying."

Assistant headteacher Claire Buckle said the school was happy to talk with parents who have concerns about the proposals, and stressed that they would be trying to keep costs down on any new items introduced.

She said: "At The Marches School we try very hard to listen to all stakeholders. When we pick up on an area of discontent, we work hard to respond swiftly and positively. In response to requests from a large number of parents, we are currently consulting on the introduction of standardised Marches School trousers and skirts."

Building being transformed into cinema



Ruth Carter, of Kinoculture, looks at some old film reels at the Kingswell Centre

A BUILDING in Oswestry which has been empty for more than two years is getting a new lease of life as workers move in to transform it into a cinema.

The former Kingswell Centre, in Arthur Street, was left empty after the charity which used it as a base could no longer afford to keep it open.

But after a team of volunteers from Kinoculture set about tackling the flaky plaster, lack of heating and peeling paintwork it is now well on the way to coming back into use as a community centre again.

Ruth Carter, who runs Kinoculture with technical director Ian Garland, said a lot of work had been needed to bring the building up to scratch so it could house the film

screenings, talks and other events planned. "It has been empty for over three years and it hadn't had a lot of money spent on it prior to that," she said.

"The main cinema room was a sports hall with basketball hoops and huge boards of murals on the walls as it was a youth centre space."

"We didn't realise until we got in here that a lot of the plaster was coming off the walls, and there was no heating. That set us back quite a bit because of the work we had to do before we could even start creating the cinema. We could see the place had potential to be transformed."

The new cinema is expected to be ready for mid-June



Care Johnson cleans chairs

NEWS in brief

Doors to pub will be opening again

A PUB and restaurant will re-open tomorrow (Friday) this week with an award-winning chef at the helm.

The Nags Head on the A483 at Garthmyl, near Berriew, closed in February, but will now be re-opened by Bryn Evans, who has worked at the Michelin-starred Juniper restaurant in Manchester.

Mr Evans said the pub will re-open on Friday and will feature home-cooked food and real ales.

It is his first venture into running his own business after spells as a chef at some of the top hotels in Manchester, including Michael Caine's Abode Hotel and the Obsidian Restaurant.

The pub closed back in February.

Gardener wins a silver award

A GARDEN designer from Oswestry has scooped a silver award at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival.

Teresa Rham, from Groundsigns at Middleton, near Oswestry, spent two weeks creating a show garden entitled which starred alongside eight other show gardens at the four-day event.

Her garden was awarded a silver medal by the judges and Mrs Rham said the garden was inspired by the title of the classic Led Zeppelin song Stairway to Heaven and the Giant's Causeway rock formation.

Busy time ahead for the ramblers MAY has been a busy month so far for Oswestry Ramblers, who have managed to go on three outings in the past three weeks.

Today (Thursday) the ramblers are set to walk from Dodleston through to Cheshire, and a walk from Wenlock Edge is on the agenda for Sunday ramblers.

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NEWS

Antiques street fair set to become annual event

by Iain St John

OSWESTRY'S first antique street market proved so successful that it will be repeated next year, officers have said.

About 30 antique dealers set up stalls in the town centre last Friday for the inaugural event.

The new attraction was made possible thanks to a partnership between event organisers Amulet Fairs and Oswestry Town Council.

Town council markets manager David Clough said the antique stallholders had reported they had enjoyed strong trade.

He said plans were already being looked at for holding a similar event next year.

Mr Clough said: "There was a really good response from traders and I would expect to see even more next time as word spreads of the event.

"The traders say they have done really well and we are delighted."

Oswestry's new mayor Councillor John Gareth Jones attended the fair and said he was impressed by what he saw.

He said: "We are looking to bring more of these kind of attractions to Oswestry.

"We have a continental market coming up and of course we have the very popular Oswestry food and drink festival later in the year.

"These events are important in raising Oswestry's profile and increasing footfall."

The first antique fair is part of Oswestry's contribution to the national Love Your Local Market campaign, inspired by Mary Portas's report on the future of the high streets.

A youth market has already taken place while plans are being put in place for a continental market. The continental market is due to take place on Saturday.

The Love Your Local Market is being supported by the National Association of British Markets Authorities.

Gorsedd honours for Mid Wales duo

TWO men from Mid Wales will be honoured by the Gorsedd of the Bards at the National Eisteddfod this August.

The honours, presented annually, are an opportunity to recognise individuals from all parts of the country for their achievements and their commitment to Wales.

Roy Griffiths, from Cwm Nant y Meichiaid, Llanfyllin and Tegwyn Jones, from Pontrobert, will receive green robes for their contribution to the arts at a ceremony on August 8.

Mr Griffiths will be honoured for his contributions to music and education. He was headteacher at Ysgol Gynradd Llanfyllin before his appointment as an education advisor in Powys.

Councillor Jones, who has been a member of Powys County Council member for years, is being honoured for his contribution to the social, cultural and religious life in Llanfihangel yng Ngwynfa.

Rally aids children's hospital



Ian Roberts and Mark Roberts (back) with Jonny Hart and pupils, Sian Thomas,

A couple were driven to raise money for the specialists who cared for their son after he was diagnosed with a heart condition.

In fact, Catherine and Allen Hart roped in a number of rally cars for the fundraiser they set up for the Birmingham Children's Hospital as a thank you for the care given to their young son, Jonathan.

The five-year-old has undergone three operations at the world-renowned hospital, the first when he was just two weeks old.

The youngster, from Llansantffraid, is now a happy, healthy boy but his parents have never forgotten the quality of care he received.

Earlier this month they raised more than £1,000 with a 71-car rally organised in Llanfyllin with the Welsh Border Car Club.

And on Wednesday they raised even more with an afternoon tea, featuring rally cars, at Jonathan's school, Llangedwyn, where Mrs Hart works.



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Theatre coming to castle grounds

AN all-male cast will be performing Shakespeare's shortest comedy in the romantic ruins of a castle next week.

The grounds of Whittington Castle, near Oswestry, will host the first performance of 'The Festival Players' UK and Europe tour of 'The Comedy of Errors' on May 31.

The outdoor performance will be one of 40 dates in the tour, taking place in Shakespeare's 450th birthday year.

Michael Dyer, artistic director of the Festival Players, will lead the company playing the role of Duke Solinus.

He said: "It is a brilliant farce of mistaken identities with a few darker undertones and we will perform it very much as a colourful, entertaining romp."

"It tells of a master and his servant arriving in a foreign port which, unbeknown to them, is the home of their long-lost twin brothers. Mayhem ensues in a riotous train of mistaken identity, seduction and pursuit."

The cast of seven will each play multiple roles, with some quick costume changes, as well as performing as musicians.

Advance tickets for the 7pm performance are available on (01691) 662500.

Mystery deepens after skull research findings

FRESH clues have been revealed about the origins of a human skull which was found at a Shropshire beauty spot.

Experts say the skull, found by a dog with a shooting party at Sweeney Mountain near Oswestry in November, may have been from a man of Afro Caribbean ethnic origin

And they say plant debris from the skull does not appear to be from Britain or north west Europe but points to a sandy habitat, possibly from a Mediterranean or tropical country.

Police are continuing their efforts to unravel the mystery of how the human skull, thought to be that of a man who died about 50 years ago, came to be in dense woodland at the beauty spot.

No other bones were found during extensive police searches of the area and pathologists have been unable to determine the cause of death or if the man was a victim of crime.

But scientific study of the remains has provided some clues.

Police say the skull, which has the jaw missing but is otherwise complete, does not appear to have been buried.

It seems to have been

by Iain St John

lying on the surface for a relatively short time before being found.

Police are now hoping someone will come forward with an explanation as they continue efforts to identify the man.

Forensic studies through anthropology, odontology, pathology, carbon-dating, DNA and botany, have provided some important information.

The skull is thought to be that of a fairly young man who is much more likely to be of Afro Caribbean ethnic origin than Caucasian, although Yemeni, Indian or Japanese are also possibilities.

Tests on the teeth and soil found in the bone cavities suggest his diet was not typical of northern latitudes and police say plant debris would indicate it came from a Mediterranean or tropical country.

Pets help Michelle on run



Runner Michelle Bowen with her dogs Jessie and Ollie

THE manager of a country club has completed a gruelling 100 mile run through the south Shropshire hills - with a little bit of help from her pet dogs.

Michelle Bowen, who is the manager of the Lion Quays Country Club near Oswestry, took on the Apocalypse 100 ultra marathon running non-stop for 31 hours.

She finished fifth out of only 11 runners to complete the 100 mile course and was the first woman home.

The 35-year-old, who trains with her dogs Jessie and Ollie, admitted she had been completely unprepared for how steep the hills would be.

"It's the longest I've run in one go," she said. "I do ultra marathons anyway but they're usually 30 to 50 miles."

Miss Bowen, who lives in Offa, Chirk, set off at 9am on Saturday and completed the event in Church Stretton at 4pm on the Sunday.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

OSWESTRY is well and truly on the map after last weekend's exploits at The British Ironworks when Prince Michael of Kent and Uri Geller unveiled the magnificent giant gorilla made from spoons.

The interest of the British press was really captured by the illusionist's gorilla project which saw the Ironworks team sculpture the incredible beast out of 40,000 spoons.

The spotlight really fell on the town, bringing invaluable exposure to the area, and the story has been popping up everywhere this week.

It's not the first time the Ironworks team has been involved in such an outrageous project and don't be surprised to find they've got a few more schemes up their sleeves.

People are quick to criticise and I have heard the knockers at work. But you can't help but admire the work that goes on at the Aston site and the family run business's commitment to supporting many local charitable causes.

And Uri Geller completely won over the large crowd at Saturday's event with his amazing spoon bending antics.

Chronicle photographer Pete Shah was a complete sceptic until he witnessed at first hand the illusionist at work. Is it all a trick or does Uri really have some kind of special power.

Whatever it is, hundreds left Oswestry bamboozled by his bending skills and won over by a genuinely nice guy.

This week Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies came out rubbing the fact that the wind farm and pylon enquiry is still going ahead in Welshpool.

The MP is adamant that he knows the whole project will be scrapped and has described the enquiry as a complete waste of tax payers money.

I really hope he is right but surely the fight must go on until it is written in stone that the National Grid plan to desecrate the Mid Wales and Shropshire countryside really is a dead duck.

Interestingly very few objectors turned up at the enquiry this week. Is it that they too believe it all a waste of time or is it that those who were shouting the loudest now know the proposed route is not going down their street?

If the Government do come out and announce that the Mid Wales project is to be scrapped, as the MP really does believe, it will prove an enormous vote winner for the Conservatives in both Shropshire and Montgomeryshire

The timing wouldn't have anything to do with that though - would it?



Uri Geller wowed the crowds at The British Ironworks with his spoon bending antics



Clive Knowles and Prince Michael look on as Uri Geller proposes a toast



Prince Michael with British Ironworks managing director Clive Knowles

WORKING FOR YOU



Owen Paterson MP

On the back of the recent sunny weather a number of employment figures have been released which make for encouraging reading. Unemployment fell by 77,000 in the quarter to February to 2.24 million, a jobless rate of 6.9%, the lowest for five years, while the numbers in work has reached a record 30.3 million.

There were 30,400 fewer claimants of unemployment benefits in March, a total of 1.14 million; the 17th consecutive monthly reduction. Self-employment increased by 146,000 to 4.5 million, the highest since records began in 1992. Long-term and youth unemployment have also both fallen.

With pay increasing in real terms and unemployment falling to new lows, more people are now in work and being paid more for it. Alongside reforms to welfare, the rising employment figures have led to a reduction in benefits paid out and a better deal for the tax payer.

I was particularly pleased to read that this trend is reflected in the figures for North Shropshire. In March last year 1,954 people were out of work; as of April that number has shrunk to 1,458. A reduction of over 20% in a year is to be celebrated and puts the constituency ahead of the national average.

This success is driven by the many excellent businesses in North Shropshire employing skilled staff who are making innovative products. I look forward to visiting many of these companies over the coming months, to see for myself the great work that they are doing to increase wealth and create more new jobs.

Today's European elections are incredibly important. The Conservatives have a plan to fix our relationship with the EU and make it work for hardworking people and businesses in Britain.

People feel the EU is costing British taxpayers too much and we have lost control of our own affairs. The EU needs fundamental change and under the Conservatives, Britain is leading the way.

Only the Conservatives have a credible plan to re-shape Britain's relationship with the European Union, and to put this to the British people in a referendum by the end of 2017.

A royal viewing for Uri Geller's gorilla statue

The public turned out in the sunshine to see what 40,000 spoons can create. SOPHIE MADDEN reports

ILLUSIONIST Uri Geller has described a 12ft gorilla made for him out of spoons by a Shropshire firm as 'bigger and better' than he could have imagined.

The spoon-bender visited the county yesterday joined by Prince Michael of Kent to unveil the sculpture - made for him by the British Ironwork Centre in Aston near Oswestry.

The gorilla had been crafted at the centre using 40,000 spoons which had been donated from across the globe.

After jointly unveiling the sculpture, Mr Geller said: "I'm simply stunned and I am keeping away from the spoons."

"I have been so pleased to come here, the weather is incredible."

The sculpture will be taken to Mr Geller's home in Sonning-on-Thames later this month, where it will be displayed in his garden amongst other interesting and unusual objects, including a glass pyramid and a Cadillac covered in 3,000 spoons which are there to entertain the terminally ill children who visit his home.

He said: "It has the wow factor for the children who will visit my home."

"I thought of the idea of a gorilla because it power, positivity, strength and energy."

"Churchill's spoon is actually in there, I have a collection of famous people's spoons and I believe his has been used."

Prince Michael of Kent is a friend of Mr Geller and had taken a personal interest in the world record breaking sculpture.



Crowds enjoyed glorious sunshine as they watched the unveiling

The pair arrived by helicopter at 12pm on Saturday and were given a tour of the Ironworks centre following the grand unveiling.

Staff at the centre wore union jack bow-ties for the occasion, where guests could enjoy a hog roast, crepes, a champagne toast and take a look at some of British Ironwork's other creations.

Mr Geller and his Royal Highness spent lots of time talking to assembled guests, with Mr Geller bending spoons brought by some of those in attendance.

One of the lucky people to have some of her silverware bent was Doctor Sally Whipple-Green from the Hope House shop in Oswestry.

She brought with her the tea tongs from the Oswestry Sinfonia which Mr Geller bent and signed for her to sell in the shop.

"I am so pleased," she said. "They are

useless as tongs now so they will have to go to the shop."

Mr Geller also presented 21-year-old Samantha Maxwell from Wrexham with a special trophy after she alone collected 739 spoons for the gorilla.

She said: "I wanted to collect the spoons after I heard what he did for the ill children," she said. "It was amazing to see him bend a spoon right in front of me."

Mr Geller even had time to stop for a kiss with retired Oswestry resident Margaret Barnes who had also had a chance to meet His Royal Highness.

She had been waiting for over three hours to get a glimpse of Prince Michael.

She said: "I'm a fan of the royal family."

"His Royal Highness was very nice, and I told him that I'd met him before

in 1972, he asked where it was and I said in London after the London to Brighton bike rally."

"I think this is fantastic for Oswestry." Hundreds of VIP guests were invited to the unveiling, including local dignitaries and players from Oswestry Football Club.

Malcolm Pate, chairman of Shropshire Council was among those that attended the grand unveiling.

He said: "The sculpture is brilliant. I'm amazed at the attention and skill of the artists here."

Also in attendance was MP for North Shropshire Owen Paterson, he said: "I think the gorilla is extremely impressive, each spoon has been individually welded."

Mr Paterson previously had a rhinoceros head made for him by the British Ironworks Centre.

John Gareth Jones, the Mayor of Oswestry, who was also present, said: "This will put Oswestry on the map, I think this will become a real tourist attraction."

"It is world-wide, spoons have come from all over the globe."

The finished sculpture has been under 24-hour guard and was an international effort that saw schools from China, India and Kenya donating spoons to help its completion.

More than 40,000 spoons are thought to have been used in its construction by sculptor Alfie Bradley.

In an attempt to encourage people to get involved in the project, Mr Geller, a friend of the late pop star Michael Jackson, donated a jacket belonging to the singer which will be given to the individual who collects the most spoons.

As yet, the winner of the jacket has not been announced, as the British Ironwork Centre staff are still totting up all the spoons they received to work out who contributed the most.

Ben Knowles, from the centre, said "We're now planning something even more spectacular in the future."

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AS A FARMER, IF I DO NOT CLAIM MY 2014 SFP ENTITLEMENTS WILL I LOSE THEM?

Q: I am very confused about SFP entitlements following the CAP Reform. Although they were activated last year, some of my entitlements are not likely to be activated this year. Will they be confiscated and therefore excluded from valuation calculations for the 2015 entitlements? Also, if I were to sell my entitlements would it affect the value of my land?

A: Normally entitlements not activated in 2013 and 2014 would be confiscated with effect from January 1st 2015. However, as all entitlements are being abolished at the end of 2014 this will have no practical effect so entitlements not activated in 2013 or 2014 would still be regarded as held by you on 15th May this year and, as such, will be included in the calculation of the initial unit value of your entitlements established in 2015. This is of course provided you meet all the eligibility criteria in 2015.

In respect of selling your entitlements, entitlements are not attached to specific parcels of land. They have a value of their own and can be bought and sold completely independently of your land. However, before deciding to sell your entitlements it would be wise to seek professional advice as there may be capital gains tax implications.

It is also worth noting that if you sell your entitlements without claiming this year you can still apply to establish entitlements in 2015, provided you claimed on them in 2013 and are able to meet the active farmer provisions. There is no requirement to hold entitlements or claim SFP in 2014. If you have no entitlements in 2014, the initial unit value of the entitlements you establish in 2015 will be zero and then they will progress in equal steps towards the end value in 2019, which has still to be decided. Your entitlements will not be valued at zero in 2015 as 2015 is the first year of the transition.

Further information relating to this question is available from Eliot Hibbert, a partner with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.

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Calls to end this 'secrecy clause'

FOR more than a century, information on animal experiments has been kept secret. However this could be about to change, as the Government is reviewing the animal experiment 'secrecy clause' and has asked for your opinion.

Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act enables animal experiments to happen in secret, and makes revealing any information about them a criminal offence – even with the researcher's consent. Section 24 stifles public debate about animal experiments, and suppresses scientific and ethical scrutiny.

The National Anti-Vivisection Society is leading the call to repeal the secrecy clause and prevent needless animal suffering. There is strong support for a repeal. Over four million animals are currently experimented on each year in the UK, but it doesn't have to be this way. Please help us ensure that no experiment is duplicated and modern non-animal methods are always considered before experiments on animals take place, supporting better science.

Please take part in the Government's public consultation on animal experiment secrecy before June 13. Visit navs.org.uk for details – it will take just 10 minutes of your time but would mean the world to the animals.

JAN CREAMER
National Anti-Vivisection Society

Carers need more breaks

DID your readers know that there are around 800,000 people living with dementia in England and nearly 550,000 people caring for them?

The problem is that not enough carers have the opportunity to get away, even just for a few days.

We ran a survey which found that a shocking four out of 10 carers have not taken a single day off from caring in the past year, meaning that many find themselves in a caring role 24/7/365.

STEPHANIE STONE
Vitalise.

Concern over tobacco packaging

MEMBERS of the Petrol Retailers Association (PRA), which represents 5,500 independent forecourts, are increasingly concerned about the amount of illicit tobacco on our streets.

A survey carried out of PRA members last month has shown that 73 per cent believe that illicit trade hurts their business and decreases their annual sales revenue with almost two thirds believing that the problem is getting worse.

Retailers are also increasingly opposed to Government proposals to

introduce plain packaging of tobacco products and think it will harm honest retailers because it will fuel illicit trade and people will buy their cigarettes from the black market. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Priti Patel MP in her campaign to oppose plain packaging and defend the interests of small retailers.

Our contemporaries in Australia, the only country in the world to have introduced plain packaging, show these concerns are well founded. The Australasian Association of Convenience Stores (AACS) says 70 per cent of

retailers have been negatively affected by plain packaging, with 67 per cent saying that the growth of the black market has had an impact on their business since plain packaging was introduced.

During the same period, the sale of illegal branded cigarettes has increased. Retailers are unanimous in their belief that the Government should fully evaluate the Australian experiment before implementing plain packaging.

BRIAN MADDERSON
Petrol Retailers Association

Pupils all dressed up – but what for?



Can you help with this one? It is possibly Whittington School children during an Empire Day celebration or similar in the early 1920s, but that is all guesswork. The picture was among the effects of the late Pat Vail of Madeley. Her maiden name was Benbow and she was from Whittington, so it is possible that she is in the photo.

Environment for badgers is man-made

WHILST right in her claim that badgers have been eating birds' eggs for thousands of years, Lorraine Parker ignores the fact that badgers have not always been at the top of the food chain and their numbers have only exploded since they have been protected.

Badgers do not live in a natural environment where nature keeps all creatures in balance. They live in a man-made environment, where their natural predators have been eradicated.

We have created this mess and it is now unfortunately our responsibility to try and manage it. Surely, for the sake of all creatures it is now our responsibility to control numbers.

BARRY JONES,
Churchstoke.

LETTERS to the Editor		
POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford, TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestry chronicle.co.uk
Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters		

Appeal for openness to vivisection firms

THIS week, 72 companies, university research departments and charities involved in animal experimentation signed a so-called "concordat on openness".

But it will do little to combat the secrecy of vivisection. Instead, the concordat forms part of an elaborate public relations exercise that is designed to improve the image of vivisection whilst ensuring that the disturbing truth (animals being deliberately brain-damaged, injected with lethal viruses, given electric shocks) remains hidden.

If the signatories are genuinely committed to openness, they should call for a repeal of Section 24 – the notorious secrecy clause that is used to prevent even the most basic information about animal experiments from being released.

ISOBEL HUTCHINSON
Campaigner Animal Aid

LETTERS

'All in it together' against Farage

"ALL in it together?" – yes they are. The House of Commons, the House of Lords, the BBC, ITV and every national newspaper – united in the petulant and juvenile character assassination of UKIP and its leader Nigel Farage.

Britain, the birthplace of democracy, is going backward. There are over 300 political parties registered in these islands and the three major ones have failed us badly.

Our 40-years membership of the EU, agreed by all three parties has left us with a tiny fraction of the democracy we had before and can be described in three words – an expensive error.

Do not forget the "self-evident benefits" we have earned from our membership – there has been a massive increase in child poverty. You will find a food bank in every town in the land and we have over one million "workers" on zero-working hours, the worst scam of the century.

Is there any point in having minimum wage legislation without minimum hours legislation?

Add to this the arrogant contempt with which we are treated by our MPs, all protected from the cutbacks the rest of us face and the electorate's aim to try someone different is neither racist nor stupid but rational, sensible and logical.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Action call over Egypt

WHAT, if anything, are we doing about the situation in Egypt? We impose sanctions against Russia for their actions in Ukraine but not against Egypt.

The military there overthrew the democratically elected government, imprisoned their leaders and arrested hundreds of their supporters. They have also banned them from taking part in the election.

The West preaches democracy but has done nothing as far I can see, to condemn what has happened. Where are the sanctions? Is this a case of double standards?

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NEWS
in brief

New faces join
league committee

THREE new executive committee members have been welcomed on to the League of Friends to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry.

Their appointment came after long-serving member, Mrs Barbara Parry-Jones of Llangollen, stepped down from the committee.

Mrs Harriet Horne, from the Ludlow branch, is joined by Mrs Jo Spencer Jones, of Shrewsbury branch, and Llangollen's Mrs Celia Jenkins.

A member of the League's Ludlow branch for the past seven years, Mrs Horne is now branch chairman.

Bridleway opens
to public at last

A NEW 46-mile-long bridleway, which was 20 years in the planning, has finally opened to the public.

The Humphrey Kynaston Way links the Jack Mytton Way bridleway at Church Stretton, via Nesscliffe, to Grinshill.

It was officially opened by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Robert Bland.

The new route makes use of Natural England Paths for Communities funding, and close working between Shropshire Council, the Nesscliffe Hills and District Bridleway Association, and Parish Paths Partnership Group.

Council fury at bungled plans by National Grid

FURIOUS councillors have accused National Grid of "bungling" its decision on where a controversial proposed pylon power line should be installed.

But National Grid bosses have insisted the route of the line is the "best option based on the information available".

The criticism comes from Llansantffraid Community Council which is one of several organisations battling plans for a 33-mile power line from near the village of Cefn Coch in Mid Wales to Lower Frankton near Oswestry.

The line, some of which is set to be buried underground, will serve proposed Mid Wales windfarms which are currently subject to a planning inquiry.

Campaigners fear the line will destroy the landscape and decimate the tourism industry.

Llansantffraid Community Council has been in contact with National Grid highlighting its fears and has now received a response to them.

In reply to the company's response, chairman Dennis Edwards, on behalf of the community council says in a new letter to National Grid: "National Grid has bungled the corridor choice of the

by Iain St John

route for the power line and pylons.

"We asked you in our statement to review that decision because, despite what you say about 'balance', you have made an obviously unbalanced decision.

"The route via Llansantffraid is the wrong choice on all grounds including population, landscape, cultural heritage, economy based on tourism, environment and wildlife.

"Your own documents agree with us on all these factors except landscape where we believe you have made a mistake in ignoring the special qualities of our river landscape.

"Our statement gave all the information needed to justify a review but you have ignored it.

"We consider your decision was based on a series of many mistakes which you refuse to admit."

MP helps pupils bury a time capsule



MP Daniel Kawczynski with pupils at Moreton First School as they bury the time capsule for 50 years

A TIME capsule containing CDs, recipes and memories has been buried at a school in Oswestry.

Moreton First pupils filled a waterproof suitcase with the items and buried it in the school grounds last Friday to celebrate their school centenary.

The day also saw the official opening of a new woodland area in the school grounds which has been planted by the girls.

The items were sealed inside the suitcase, which Mrs Roberts said she had been assured would remain wa-

terproof for decades, and buried in a ceremony attended by Shrewsbury MP Daniel Kawczynski.

Teacher Mrs Maggie Roberts said: "We'll have a plaque or a stone to mark the spot so, in 50 years, people can dig it back up."

Rotarians take part in heart age check

MEMBERS of the Borderland Rotary Club were among the first organisations in Shropshire to hear about a new health campaign being launched this week.

The group welcomed guest speaker Gill Jones, Shropshire Heart Age project officer, to their meeting this week to talk about the creation of a localised version of a global HeartAge online test which has been launched by Shropshire Public Health Team and the HeartAge Partnership.

She said: "Comparing an individual's heart age to their actual age gives them an understanding on how healthy their heart is. For those whose heart age is greater than their actual age Shropshire Heart Age will provide help and advice on how to improve it.

"The aim of the campaign is to motivate Shropshire residents to adopt healthy lifestyle habits that will help improve their heart health. Shropshire HeartAge will encourage those eligible to take up their entitlement for a free NHS health check and provide details of how to access local services and support for everyone seeking to make lifestyle improvements, such as stopping smoking, managing their weight or increasing their levels of physical activity."

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	11am	Bodytech Pump		5:30pm	Beginners Spin
	5:30pm	Easy Spin		6:15pm	Bodytech House Spin
	6:15pm	Bodytech House Spin	Sat	10am	Bodytech House Spin
Wed	7pm	Race Day Spin		11:30am	Beginners Spin
	8pm	Pilates			
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	12:15pm	Easy Spin			
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	7:30pm	Plan 2 Slim			

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Group's 20mph is plenty message



Sarah-Charlotte Peace with Jerry Hoyte, Craig Marston, Duncan Kerr, Jo Morison, Rupert Mitchell and Tim Rutherford

SAFETY campaigners will take their message that 20mph is plenty into schools and community groups in a bid to bring in a blanket speed limit across a town.

Members of the 20s Plenty for Oswestry group are spreading the word across the community as they bid to make the town the first in Shropshire to have 20mph speed limits for all roads inside its boundaries. The scheme has already gained the support of West Mercia Police, Oswestry Town Council and businesses and residents.

About 10 people attended the group's first official meeting. Organiser Sarah-Charlotte Peace said one new strategy will be to contact town schools and the town's Shropshire councillors to outline the safety proposal.

It comes after a new survey of 25,000 motorists by the AA found almost 70 per cent of drivers think people should be consulted before 20mph speed limits are imposed.

There are 20mph speed limits on streets in Shropshire towns, including High Street in Newport, The Wharfage in Ironbridge and roads inside the river loop in Shrewsbury. But no town has a blanket 20mph speed limit for all of its streets. Mrs Peace said: "We will be contacting schools as well as other groups and services to spread the message."

Litter bugs are spoiling beauty spot in village

LITTER bugs are spoiling the efforts of volunteers who have been working to improve the look of an Oswestry beauty spot, councillors have been told.

Calls are now being made for police to increase patrols at the town's Old Racecourse after concerns about anti-social behaviour at the site, a popular walking and horse riding area, were aired at the latest meeting of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

Councillor Erica Morgan said there had been reports of anti-social behaviour at the site in recent weeks, including fast food containers and litter being left behind which residents and other visitors are then having to pick up.

She said: "There have been incidents of groups of lads going down there and they have left quite a lot of litter."

The councillor said volunteers who have been working hard to improve the site. She said: "They have been making considerable efforts and it is looking so much better."

Councillor Morgan told the meeting last Wednesday

that there were barriers to stop cars getting too far on the old racecourse and she suggested efforts should be made to make sure they were left down.

Councillors suggested the the parish council should contact the police asking them to make more regular visits to the area. Councillor David Lloyd said: "Attempts are being made and if people are wishing not to be co-operative perhaps a slightly heavier hand is called for."

And calls were also made for the members of the police's safer neighbourhood team for the area to try their best to ensure they were able to attend meetings of the parish council as often as possible.

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NEWS
in brief

Final call for new entertainers book

THE final call has gone out for entertainers past or present to come forward to be included in a new book by Welshpool writer and entertainer Alan Crowe.

Entitled Entertaining Mid Wales and Beyond the book will chronicle the many and varied entertainers that have emerged from or work out of the area.

A Facebook page of the same name as the book's title has been set up.

Contact Alan on 07782 166342 or email alan60s@live.com

Jade to reign as queen of carnival

WELSHPOOL has chosen its new carnival queen and attendants for this Monday's event.

Jade Victoria Jones from Leighton View was named as queen at an event hosted by deputy mayor Malcolm Douglass. Attendants are Laura Gittins, of Woodside, Molly Robinson-Harding, of Heulwen Way, and Jerame Chave, of Erw Wen.

Quiz time to aid cancer research

WELSHPOOL Friends of Cancer Research are holding a quiz on May 29 with a 7.30pm start at Welshpool Bowling Club.

Teams of four are invited at £16 with a first prize of £50. Refreshments will be served.

Firm's £500k expansion will bring jobs says MD

by Iain St John

A £500,000 expansion by an energy research company which works with some of the biggest names in the global oil and gas industry will bring new jobs to Welshpool, bosses say.

The investment will see Chemostrat expand its services, create 10 new jobs and bring work back that is currently outsourced.

Chemostrat has expanded its laboratory and office space into adjacent premises, invested in state of the art equipment to enhance their analytical capabilities and created the new highly skilled positions after receiving £100,000 support from the Wales Economic Growth Fund.

Awards for top gardeners

COUNCIL tenants in the Welshpool area can showcase their green-fingered talents in the annual garden competitions, announced by the county council.

Judging for Powys County Council's 2014 Garden Competition will take place during July but tenants will need to apply to enter the competition and need to do so by June 6.

This countywide garden competition offers prizes for the following: Best Kept Garden for households living in general housing; Best Kept Senior Citizens Garden for households living in designated sheltered housing; Best Kept Estate for an estate or group of general housing and Best Kept Senior Citizens Estate for an estate or group of designated sheltered housing.

For more information contact Melanie Jones, the council's Senior Community Participation Officer, on 01597 829567.

The investment has doubled the size of the company's site on Buttington Enterprise Park and bosses say it will allow them to meet the growing global demand for its services.

Chemostrat supports oil and gas exploration world-wide. It specialises in the analysis of rock samples, providing high quality interpretation of geochemical datasets for the petroleum industry using traditional and innovative technologies.

The business currently employs 56 staff locally and an additional 17 in its offices in Houston, Perth and Calgary.

MD Tim Pearce said: "We are a global business and going through a period of sustained growth are at the forefront of the chemostratigraphy market. "We are continually investing in research and development and this will enable us to offer an even better service to the industry and allow us to bring in-house work that was previously outsourced.

"This is helping to create jobs and growth locally, while ensuring we can provide a faster, more efficient and cost effective solutions for our clients."

Company lands £1.2m deal



Tony Kneafsey, financial director, Jerry Mobbs, of Finance Wales, Mike Brown CEO and Dafydd Thomas, commercial director

A WELSHPOOL-based firm has secured a £1.2 million investment from Finance Wales to deliver superfast broadband to areas in Wales suffering as a result of poor connectivity.

Xwavia, which has recently re-branded from eXwavia, is a company dedicated to providing superfast broadband to residents and businesses in Wales.

It has secured funding to grow the capacity, speed and reach of its network harnessing microwave, fibre-optic, wireless and copper broadband technologies.

The investment will see an expansion of Xwavia's headquarters in Welshpool, creating several new positions, and improvements to the infrastructure, expanding capacity and increasing broadband speeds for individuals and businesses.

Mike Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Xwavia, said: "We are delighted to secure this investment from Finance Wales."

Watkins' chances suffer in the dust

WELSHPOOL rally driver James Watkins suffered a setback to his championship hopes when he finished outside the top places in Saturday's Plains Rally.

Watkins and co-driver Caron Tomlinson started the rally in Welshpool with high hopes with a new engine in their Nissan Micra.

After a first stage spin the pair were lying fourth in class going into the third stage at Garthneylog where they were delayed for two miles in the dust by a slower competitor.

"We caught the dust with just under two miles to the end of the stage and had to stop twice as we couldn't see anything - the dust was so thick," said Watkins.

After dropping to eighth place Watkins fought back, setting a blistering pace in their GJM prepared, GPR sponsored Micra to finish fifth overall in class.

"I'm really disappointed for all my sponsors - the car ran faultlessly and this new engine is much better than the old one, he added.

"The time loss was not our fault."

Watkins' next event will be the Nicky Grist Stages in Builth Wells in July where he will be looking to get back on track.

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Cancer charity's tea party campaign



Dave and Liz Gannon with Kaye Derwas at the Glansevern Hall launch last week

THE launch of the area's Marie Curie's Blooming Great Tea Party campaign took place at Glansevern Hall, near Welshpool, last week.

Organisers are calling on everyone in the community to host their own tea party to raise funds for Marie Curie this June. The event can be anything from a small gathering of

friends to a big summer garden party. By taking part people will be helping to raise the funds that make it possible for Marie Curie nurses to provide care for terminally ill people in their own homes. Anyone interested can call Judy Breese on (01691) 671549 or sign up online at <http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty>

New date for charity day

WELSHPOOL is set for another big charity day in July thanks to the Montgomeryshire Parachute Regiment.

Organisers have announced that this year's fundraiser will take place later in the year on July 12 at Maesydre School with cash going to The Airborne Forces and other local charities.

by Sue Austin

Formerly called the Help for Heroes Day, organisers decided to change the causes it supports two years ago and the event has developed into one of the town's biggest charity days.

Entertainment includes a hog roast, bar, stalls, inflatables, tattooist, five-a-side football and an it's a knockout event.

Performers will again be on stage

with live music throughout the day and evening.

Tickets are £5 in advance or £7.50 on the day. Entrance is free to under 16s but children must be accompanied.

Nicola Davies, one of the organisers, said: "The It's a Knockout will be going ahead again this year as it proved so popular last time."

"But people need to get in touch quickly as we are limiting the numbers to six teams this year."

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NEWS
in brief**Derelict pub plans granted approval**

APPROVAL has been given to transform the site of a once popular Oswestry pub into apartments.

Brewery bosses closed the Woodlands in Middleton Road about five years ago after they deemed it financially unviable and efforts to find a new tenant failed.

The pub has become derelict and has attracted anti-social behaviour problems including an arson attack last year.

Plans to breathe new life into the site and use the land for the building of a total of 14 apartments have now been approved by Shropshire Council planning officers.

Cafe plan at town car wash business

A CAR wash firm is hoping to expand its operations by opening a cafe and diner on its Oswestry site, bringing a jobs boost to the town.

Bosses at Waterboyz, based on Gobowen Road, say the move will create two full-time and two part-time jobs.

Bosses say the car wash operation will continue as before but they are also hoping for approval to use a building on the site for the new cafe snack bar enterprise.

Shropshire Council hopes to make a decision on the application by June 27.

Prolific burglar is jailed for five-and-a-half years

A PROLIFIC burglar who broke into three homes and attempted to burgle another has been jailed for five-and-a-half-years.

Martin Edwards had only just been released from prison for burglary when an elderly couple found him in the hallway of their home in Whittington, Shrewsbury Crown Court was told.

He was charged by police for that offence, but while he was on bail, the father-of-one broke into two further homes and attempted to burgle another all on the same day in Shrewsbury.

Edwards, of no fixed abode, had previously pleaded guilty to three counts of burglary and one count of attempted burglary. The 35-year-old appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court last Friday for sentencing.

The court heard Edwards was released from prison in August 2013 after serving a 16-month term for burglary and theft.

Miss Nazneen Sultan, prosecuting, said: "Within a couple of months he was re-offending again."

"The complainants were a retired couple, a Mr and Mrs Marshall.

"Mr Marshall was 64, and at about 5.30pm on October 26 2013, the couple were both present at home in

by Wayne Beese

Park Crescent, Whittington, when Mr Marshall encountered an intruder in the hallway.

"He challenged the intruder by asking him what he was doing. He said he was looking for someone called David Rhodes.

"Mrs Marshall then joined her husband and both told him to get out, which he did."

Miss Sultan said police were called and Edwards was arrested in the vicinity.

He was picked out of an identification parade by the couple and charged with burglary.

"While on bail he committed a further three offences on December 10," Miss Sultan said.

Mrs Debra White, for Edwards, said her client had suffered for a long time with drug addiction but had recently become a father and had a job offer.

Youth take over for Oswestry market



Youngsters, from Derwen College, performed a flashmob dance at Oswestry market.

A FLASHMOB dance by young people was performed at Oswestry market as part of a campaign to get more youngsters to use them.

Shoppers were thrilled when students from Derwen College gave a lively dance performance at the

Oswestry Bailey Head outdoor market as part of the national "Love your local market" campaign.

The youth market, with young people given stalls for the day, was the first of various events being staged over two weeks. Markets manager

David Clough said: "More than 10 stalls were allocated to schools and colleges to give them a taste of market retailing. Those taking part included the Marches School, Walford and North Shropshire College, the Derwen, Maesbury Metals and Project Group."

Meeting will look at social inequality

A PUBLIC meeting has been called to look at how social inequality affects the lives of people living in Oswestry.

The Oswestry Equality Group will explore the issue at the talks on Wednesday.

Group chairman Penny Rice said the talks would look at how Oswestry compares with the rest of Shropshire in terms of employment and income.

She said: "Jackie Jeffrey who is manager of Citizens Advice Shropshire, will be coming to talk about inequality in Shropshire."

"Oswestry has an estimated population of 17,105, making it the second biggest town in Shropshire. Nineteen per cent of the population is aged 65 and over."

"This will have a serious impact on the NHS and care in the future."

"Average incomes are the lowest in Shropshire and 22.3 per cent of people are employed in retail."

"Unemployment in 2012 was 5.1 per cent - twice the rate for Shropshire as a whole."

"The former Cambrian, Castle, Carreg Llwyd and Gatacre council wards all fall within the 20 per cent most deprived wards in Shropshire."

The talks will be held at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre at 7.30pm.

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NEWS
in briefNew bus service
aids hospital visits

VISITING patients or attending appointments at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is about to get easier for bus passengers from a neighbouring town and village.

Tanat Valley Coaches is revising the route of one of its long-established bus services to provide direct links between Ellesmere and Whittington to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital for the first time.

From June 2, service 449 is being changed to provide a new daily direct link between Whittington and the hospital, which will save those travelling from Whittington the inconvenience of having to change buses.

Restoration plans
win vital funding

AN ambitious £465,000 restoration project on an historic bridge is coming to fruition after volunteers were pledged vital funding.

The team behind plans to reopen Llangollen's world-famous chain bridge has been promised funding by the Welsh Government which will allow them to progress with the project.

Although an exact figure hasn't yet been agreed, CADW, the Welsh Government's heritage organisation, has approved a bid in principle and invited the volunteers to submit a formal bid.

Hundreds expected to take to the hills at weekend

by Iain St John

HUNDREDS of people are expected to descend on a village near Oswestry this weekend for an increasingly popular walking festival.

The Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend started life as a simple walk up a nearby hill by a group of friends more than 20 years ago.

On that occasion the group took with them a milk churn to gather money for charity. The festival has now grown into three days of activities ranging from walks to cycle rides and family events.

Action over town tourism

LEISURE attractions are being urged to step in and fill the void left by the drop in opening hours of Oswestry's tourist information centre.

One Mile End TIC on the A5/A483 roundabout at Oswestry is now closed on Wednesdays and Sundays because of council budget cuts.

At a recent tourism seminar held in the town, Chris Schofield, former mayor and bed and breakfast operator said Mile End was pivotal to signposting local tourism and said he hoped other attractions would take on the mantle of giving out information.

Those at the meeting, including representatives from Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and the Oswestry Welsh Border Association, said Mile End TIC should be fully resourced and that the reduction in hours was a blow to the town. It was agreed that an Oswestry Tourism Forum be set up and run as a pilot for 12 months.

The weekend walking extravaganza Saturday will include a 16-mile walk taking walkers up the three hills of Mynydd Myfyr, Gyrn Moelfre and the Moelydd on Saturday.

A motorbike trial event will be held on Saturday afternoon at New Barns Farm at Trefonen while a quiz will be in the evening at Trefonen Village Hall at 7.30pm.

A hill walk weekend family church service will be held on Sunday at All Saints Church in Trefonen at 11am and a bake-off will be held at Trefonen Village Hall from 1pm to 3pm.

A duck race will also be held on Sunday followed by a barbecue at the Barley Mow Inn pub where live music will be available.

And the fun continues on Bank Holiday Monday when a series of family walk will be available including the six-mile buzzard walk and the three-mile curlew walk.

They will be open between 8am and 6pm. A cycle challenge called LaneQuest will also be held on Bank Holiday Monday for all the family.

The three days of activities will be brought to a conclusion at 5pm on Monday when a camp fire music event is held at The New Barns Cafe at Trefonen.

Mike zips to it for fundraiser



Fundraisers Nikki Maddocks and Mike Coppock

A BUSINESSMAN who is terrified of heights has agreed to take part in a 500ft high zip wire challenge for charity.

Mike Coppock will take on the fundraiser for Wales Air Ambulance after a donation box for the charity was stolen from his shop in Oswestry.

Mr Coppock will travel to the mountains of Snowdonia on June 8 to take on the challenge.

The zip wire over Penrhyn Quarry is the longest and fastest in Europe and he can expect to reach speeds of up to 100mph as he zooms along the mile-long wire.

Mr Coppock, 52, from Llansilin, said "I was really upset about what happened because Wales Air Ambulance is very close to my heart."

"I am terrified of heights but if I am doing something I really do not want to, more people will sponsor me."

To sponsor him visit givey.com or his shop.

Hillfort talks at annual meeting

THE archaeology and history of Oswestry's ancient hillfort will be the main focus of a public meeting to be held on Tuesday.

The talks have been arranged by Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council in the light of fresh interest in the landmark which has been sparked by controversial housing plans.

English Heritage officers will give a talk about the site at the authority's annual parish meeting on May 27.

Campaigners have launched the Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort amid fears new housing plans in the shadow of the monument will damage the views and setting of the monument.

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council Clerk Penny O'Hagan said the authority's annual parish meeting would hear about the history of the hillfort.

She said: "English Heritage property curator, Heather Sebire will give a talk on the archaeology, history and future plans for Oswestry Hill Fort."

"There has been a lot in the press lately about the hillfort and there has been an increased interest in it."

"The parish council feels it wants to garnish that interest and look at how people can get involved."

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Bus passengers can enjoy new shelter



Parish Clerk Val Smout, Councillors Tony Cheatham and Phil May with Nick Culliford of Tannant Valley.

FOR years bus passengers have had a rough deal, standing out in all weathers, particularly in rural areas, waiting for their bus to arrive.

But in one village near Oswestry public transport users can now at least take refuge, under a new bus shelter.

Oswestry Rural Parish Council has installed the bus shelter in the main road at Treflach, on the Oswestry-bound side of the carriageway.

The council won funding from Shropshire Council to help buy and install the shelter, which has been put up close to the Royal Oak pub.

Councillor Tony Cheatham said: "For a long time now councillors have been concerned about bus passengers having to wait out in the bad weather. Each morning there is a large group of schoolchildren that have to wait for the bus into Oswestry. We hope that they will appreciate the new shelter."

He said that Oswestry Rural Parish Council also recently helped to get a new bus shelter for the village of Morda.

Recently Pant and Llanymynech parish council also won a grant from Shropshire Council's sustainable transport fund. This meant that a bus shelter could be put up in Pant.

Cemetery interment rule change is agreed

NO interments will be allowed to take place in an village cemetery without a funeral director to handle the arrangements, parish councillors have ruled.

The new policy has been agreed by Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council after they heard interments carried out without the services of a reliable funeral director sometimes caused time-consuming problems for council staff.

The council is responsible for the running of Hengoed Cemetery and parish clerk Penny O'Hagan said on occasions the process of interment can turn into long bureaucratic process.

She told councillors at their monthly meeting on Wednesday night that interment without the use of a funeral director meant there was a lot more work because all the legal papers had to be gone through.

She said: "If families don't use funeral directors I have to meet with the family to make sure they have the paperwork including the cremation certificate. That will be at the library and the paperwork just drags on. "I have got one going on

for six months and I am still waiting for them to come back to me.

"Funeral directors do this every day, this is the service they provide."

Mrs O'Hagan said further work was created for the council if families wanted to inter ashes into a family grave.

She said that would mean the reopening of a grave in which the ownership papers had to be tracked down.

Mrs O'Hagan said: "If you get it wrong, then you are looking at exhumation."

Councillor David Lloyd said: "Encouraging one to do it yourself does not apply."

Councillors agreed to the new policy.

by Iain St John

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OUT & ABOUT

Stars all booked up for international eisteddfod

Advertising feature

OPERA superstar Bryn Terfel and jazz sensation Caro Emerald are the headline acts at this year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

The acclaimed bass baritone will be playing the lead in a special production of Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street featuring an all-Welsh cast.

The lavish production of Sweeney Todd on Monday, July 7, will be the curtain raiser for the 2014 festival which gets underway the following day while the curtain will come down with an appearance by legendary British rockers Status Quo on Sunday night, July 13.

In between Dutch jazz diva Caro Emerald will deliver a storming set on Thursday night while other top attractions include the Chinese State Circus and a new work by top composer Karl Jenkins.

Measured in terms of record sales, Karl Jenkins is the most successful British classical composer. He will celebrate his 70th birthday with a world premiere of his latest masterpiece, Adiemus Colores at Llangollen.

Karl will conduct his Latin American themed work with Venezuelan trumpeter Pacho Flores and American tenor Noah Stewart to the accompaniment of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod Orchestra.

The Choir of the World competition on the Saturday night is the blue ribbon event of the festival and remains one of the foremost competitions in



Caro Emerald appearing at Llangollen Eisteddfod

the international choral calendar.

There will also be a competition to find the dance champions of 2014 and to top the evening off Richard and Adam, who shot to fame on Britain's Got Talent, will appear as special guests.

Outside the Royal International Pavilion on the field colourful com-

petitors from around the world join thousands of visitors who can enjoy live music from the S4C Stage, join in with dance workshops or just soak up the heady atmosphere and world-class competition.

To book tickets and for more details on the 2014 festival go to the website at www.international-eisteddfod.co.uk

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Still places available at TNS development centre



Youngsters and coaches at the TNS Development Centre

AN Oswestry based football club is offering boys and girls the chance to improve and develop their skills.

Welsh Premier League side The New Saints has established the TNS Development Centre which runs every Monday from 4-5pm at The Venue at Park Hall.

The centre is for both boys and girls aged between eight and 14 and each training session is structured and de-

Advertising feature

livered by a qualified coach from The New Saints.

There are currently 20 players signed on but the centre is trying to expand and is hoping more children get involved.

Every player will get a kit and a squad number and the centre is designed for players who want to play for fun or to develop onto the TNS Academy.

The New Saints Football Club has

established a charitable foundation with the aim to provide positive, sustainable football, sports and educational activities for young people using the club brand as a tool to engage with the local community.

The Foundation is committed to raising the profile and awareness of The New Saints Football Club's work in the local community and the participation of players and coaches.

For more information call Kieran Lee-Birch at The Venue on 01691 684840.

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NEWS
in briefAppointment is
a trip back home

A NEW consultant anaesthetist has been appointed at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital – 20 years after doing her work experience there.

Dr Sophie Shapter, who grew up in Oswestry said: "The specialist hospital is rated highly by both patients and healthcare professionals alike. It is important to work somewhere which makes you proud and people are like that at Oswestry."

"It is an exciting prospect to be part of a small community, yet has an international reputation."

"To work and live in an area where I grew up is an added bonus."

Charity contract
to tackle crime

WELSH charity Hafan Cymru has won a contract to reduce youth offending across Powys.

The work, with a close focus on substance misuse and domestic abuse, is being funded by Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon.

Hafan Cymru chief executive Cathy Davies said: "We're delighted to have the chance to help Mr Salmon tackle crime."

"Our Prevent project will have a focused and highly targeted approach, working with youths."

Petition submitted after boy's treatment cancelled

by Pam Kingsley

THE family of a six-year-old boy who has been denied life-changing treatment in Shropshire has handed in a petition of more than 2,600 signatures calling for the NHS to change its mind.

Kailand Ford, who was born with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, was due to travel to Oswestry from the Falklands at the end of April for an operation which would have allowed him to live a normal life. But just days before the trip his family was told the funding for his treatment had been withdrawn.

Warning after biker crashes

FIRE chiefs have warned motorcyclists to take care after four fatal collisions in two weeks.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said the region's scenic routes were popular with motorcyclists who didn't know the area well.

Kenny MacDonald, road traffic collision reduction officer, said: "Our message is to remain cautious and vigilant while on the road and especially during holiday periods when the roads are busier. Please remember it is easy to miss them, so ensure you check your mirrors regularly and be spatially aware when your car is both in motion and stationary."

Karen Jones, head of community safety, said the roads of Mid Wales could become very busy during holiday periods, with people who were not familiar with the road layouts.

Thousands of people have signed an on-line petition asking NHS England to reverse their decision and allow Kailand to have selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery.

His grandmother Margaret Armstrong, who lives in the UK, has now handed in the petition of 2,655 signatures to NHS Fosse House Leicester, where she presented it to David Sharp, director of NHS Leicester & Lincoln Area Team, and Christina Richardson, head of specialised commissioning.

She said: "They were welcoming and listened to what we had to say. However they explained that NHS England had withdrawn funding the selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery in all NHS trusts."

"Certain hospitals would be able to become centres of excellence. Those hospitals that meet NHS England standards could make applications to the Independent Funding Review team who would then decide if that specific case met their criteria. If their case did so then funding would be granted."

"In the case of our grandson we await the outcome. If Oswestry Hospital meets NHS England's standards of excellence then Mr Roberts, the orthopaedic surgeon, and his excellent team will I feel sure be making an application to the IFR team."

Hospital staff are celebrated



Janye Downey, director of nursing, and Anne Worrall

SOME of the best work carried out at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has been celebrated through an awards day.

The presentation was held at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital as part of Nurses Day.

Visitors and guests were treated to various presentations from members of staff about the work which goes on at the award-winning hospital before the awards presentations were held.

The nurse of the year award went to Mary Offland who was described as "calm, compassionate and caring" by patient Anne White.

The healthcare assistant of the year award went to Jeanette Jones. The team of the year prize went to the surgical services STAR team and the Mary Powell Award went to Anne Worrall, quality matron and adult safeguarding lead.

Nurses Day is a national event backed by the Royal College of Nursing.

Line lease clears way for railway project

A LONG held ambition to reopen a heritage railway has taken a significant step forward with the signing of agreements.

Cambrian Heritage Railways officials have now completed leases with Shropshire Council for the 8.5-mile line from Gobowen to Blodwell.

They say the move gives them control of the railway land and will allow them to obtain the necessary transport orders to eventually start running trains along the line.

Prior to the new agreement, the railway group and the council had entered into an exchanged "agreements for lease" to allow enthusiasts to proceed with certain aspects of its project. But the completion of the lease removes one of the few remaining obstacles to applying for external funding and the Transport and Works Order.

Enthusiasts have been battling for years to reopen the line from Oswestry to the national network at Gobowen and a heritage tourist railway from Oswestry to Llynclys and Blodwell.

Trains currently operate at two separate sites at Llynclys and Oswestry.



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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE
HOME BUYING AND LET

Georgian farmhouse comes with land and outbuildings



Believed to date from 1777, Caegweision Farm at Maesbrook, near Oswestry, is a superb three-storey Georgian farmhouse with 2.7 acres of pasture land and a large L-shaped range of outbuildings set round a courtyard.

Although in need of some modernisation, the property offers flexible accommodation. It has an entrance hall, drawing room with log burner, sitting room with a large inglenook fireplace housing a wood burner, dining room with inglenook fireplace and kitchen with walk-in pantry and oil fired Aga.

There is also a large utility/boot room, downstairs WC, three first floor double bedrooms, three second floor bedrooms (two with en-suites and wardrobes), and a bathroom.

Additional land and further outbuildings are available by separate negotiation.

The agents have set a guide price of £550,000. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk to find out more.



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NEW - PROPERTY WITH LAND

Maesbrook £550,000

- An 18th Century Georgian farmhouse, excellent range of farm buildings & 2.7 acres of land
- The property stands in open countryside just outside the popular village of Maesbrook
- Believed to date back to 1777, Caegwysion is a fine example of a Georgian farmhouse
- Large 'L' shaped range of outbuildings encloses the properties courtyard and though currently offering gool livery facilities could accommodate a host of future uses as required. EPC Rating F
- excellent mature gardens with a further 2.7 acres of pasture land.



NEW - NO CHAIN

Chapel Lane Knockin Heath £275,000

- A spacious Detached Bungalow set on a large plot
- The property requires some modernisation works
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Sun Rm
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Fully enclosed rear garden with superb rural views towards Rodney's Pillar
- Oil central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating E



NEW

Balmoral Crescent Oswestry £199,950

- A Bedroom Detached House
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Rm, Dining Rm
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility
- 4 Beds (master en-suite), Family Bathrm
- Driveway & Garage, Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating. EPC Rating E



NEW

Cherry Tree Drive St Martins £119,950

- Well appointed & deceptively spacious Semi-Detached
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms & bathroom
- Good size driveway with off-road parking, carport & garage
- Low maintenance private garden to rear
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D



NEW

Park Avenue Oswestry £129,995

- Deceptively spacious and well maintained Mid-Terrace Property
- With a host of original features
- Dining Rm leading into Lounge
- Kitchen, 2 Beds, Bathrm
- Good size rear garden
- raised patio area and outside stores
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D



NEW

2.11 Acres Llanymynech £20,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase 2.11 acres (0.85 hectares) or thereabouts of pasture land on the edge of the village of Sarnau
- Direct access onto the highway and is contained within a ring fence with a natural water supply
- Currently down to pasture but offers a host of future agricultural, equine, recreational or potential development opportunities.



Upper Chirk Bank £250,000

- A rare residential development opportunity located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 1.06 acres (0.43 ha)
- Having Outline Planning Permission for 7 units
- set in an elevated position with excellent views and within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and Chirk Aqueduct which forms part of a World Heritage site



NEW - NO CHAIN

Rhoswiel Weston Rhyn £165,000

- Substantial 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Family Home
- Within walking distance of Shropshire Union Canal
- Lounge, Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Dining Rm, Utility
- Cloaks, 3 Beds, Bathroom
- Courtyard style cobbled yard 7 parking
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating E



Potential Building Plot Gobowen £55,000

- A potential building plot situated within the village of Gobowen.
- A pre-application to Shropshire Council has been made, who have indicated that the proposed development would be acceptable
- The site currently extends to approximately 205 square metres, measuring 18 metres x 11 metres average across the plot.



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Bay Tree Close St Martins £114,995

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- Paddock to the side and gardens
- Parking and Garage
- EPC Rating G
- Contact Llangollen Office



LOT 4 AUCTION

Acton WREXHAM

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Gardens
- EPC Rating C
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 5 AUCTION

Acrefair WREXHAM

- Formerly occupied by the business known as "Border Beds" whilst a separate businesses operate from the Trinity Hall annex. Large car parking area to the rear of the buildings.
- EPC Rating C
- Contact Llangollen Office



LOT 6 AUCTION

Pentre Broughton WREXHAM

- A two bedroom detached bungalow
- Double glazing and Gas CH
- Low level maintenance gardens
- Parking, detached garage with workshop/stores
- EPC Rating E
- Contact Wrexham Office



LOT 7 AUCTION

Glyn Ceiriog LLANGOLLEN

- Deceptively spacious Det Bungalow
- Situated close to village centre
- Sun Porch, Lounge, Bathroom
- Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms. Large garden
- uPVC Double Glazing, Oil CH
- EPC Rating F
- Contact Chirk Office



LOT 8 AUCTION

Bronygarth OSWESTRY

- A truly unique opportunity to purchase a Country Cottage together with 2.6 acres of woodland all situated in an idyllic country setting with open views towards Chirk Castle, the Ceiriog Valley and the Shropshire Plain.
- EPC Rating F
- Contact Oswestry Office

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4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
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EPC RATING C
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NO CHAIN
3 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £229,950



Oswestry
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £224,950



NEW PRICE
Haughton
3/4 SEMI-DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £224,950



NEW
Oswestry
4 BED TERRACED HOUSE
OFF ROAD PARKING
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £222,500



West Felton
3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GARAGE
EPC RATING F
OIRO £219,950



NEW
Pant
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
LIVING ROOM / DINER
OPEN VIEWS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £214,950



NEW PRICE
Oswestry
3/4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £189,950



Weston Rhyn
3/4 BED DET HOUSE
2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £184,995



NEW
Oswestry
3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GARAGE
EPC RATING D
OIRO £172,950



NEW
Oswestry
4 BED TOWN HOUSE
OFF ROAD PARKING
SORT AFTER LOCATION
EPC RATING B
OIRO £172,950



Whittington
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
ASKING PRICE £169,950



NEW PRICE
Oswestry
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £154,950



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3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
GARAGE
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £154,950



NEW
Chirk
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GARAGE
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £149,950



NEW
Oswestry
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £147,500



NEW
Oswestry
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
CORNER PLOT
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING D
OIRO £146,950



NEW PRICE
Oswestry
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING D
OFFERS OVER £140,000



Oswestry
2 BED SEMI DETACHED
NO CHAIN
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING C
OIRO £134,950



NEW
Oswestry
2 BED PROPERTY
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING E
OIRO £125,000



NEW
Oswestry
2 BED SEMI-DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/DINER
MASTER BEDROOM EN SUITE
EPC RATING D
£124,950



Oswestry
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £122,950



NEW
Oswestry
1 BED FLAT
ALLOCATED PARKING
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING TBC
OIRO £99,950



NEW
Gobowen
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £96,950

LETTINGS

9 EATON FIELDS, OSWESTRY. 1 BED TERRACED HOUSE	£375 PCM
23 YORK STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE.....	£395 PCM
2a HOLBACHE ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED TERRACED HOUSE.....	£400 PCM
2 WALLSBRIDGE COTTAGE, LLANYMYNECH. 2 BED SEMI DET COTTAGE.....	£425 PCM
3 LORD STREET, OSWESTRY. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE.....	£425 PCM
14 ROUNDWOOD CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED DET BUNGALOW	£550 PCM
2 OFFAS DYKE, FOUR CROSSES. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE	£575 PCM
CRANLEIGH, OSWESTRY. 2 BED DET BUNGALOW	£595 PCM



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OC3910

Woolston House, Woolston
Price: £595,000

Contact Oswestry

NEW
NO CHAIN

An imposing Georgian fronted property recently refurbished to a high standard whilst retaining many original features. The property is currently established as a 5 star Gold Award Bed and Breakfast providing three luxurious guest suites however, the property is also a wonderful family home. Offering six bedrooms and beautiful accommodation. Current EPC Rating E.



OC3559

Sycamore Cottage, Nr Treflach
Price: £399,950

Contact Oswestry

NEW
NO CHAIN

This detached country home is situated in a most peaceful rural location. Set in approximately two acres this extended and renovated cottage must be viewed to appreciate the spacious and characterful accommodation. Current EPC Rating F

- Two Reception Rooms
- Master & Ensuite
- Three further Bedrooms
- Paddock



OC3878

The Old Barn, Nr Maesbrook
Price: £763,000

Contact Oswestry

This superbly presented converted threshing barn overlooks its own Equestrian Haven and is located conveniently for hacking routes. Sympathetically converted and restored and now provides stunning characterful accommodation which complements the contemporary interiors. Current EPC Rating D



Eunant, Lake Vyrnwy

Price: Offers over £489,000

Contact Oswestry

Eunant offers in total 6/7 Bedrooms, 3/4 Reception Rooms, Conservatory, 4 Bathrooms/Shower Rooms, Two Detached Barns with current Planning Permission as holiday accommodation. Lovely Rural Setting overlooking Lake Vyrnwy on the edge of Snowdonia, with Grounds extending to approx 1.5 acres. Oswestry 30 miles/Shrewsbury 48 miles/Welshpool 29 miles/Llanfyllin 15 miles.



Golden Grove, Treflach

Price: £410,000

Contact Oswestry

A fine example of a detached country residence situated in a most sought after rural location. Countryside walks are abundant and the property offers spacious adaptable accommodation.

- 4 Double Bedrooms
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage & Ample Parking
- Mature South Facing Gardens
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating E



2 Brydges Gate, Llandrinio

Price: £375,000

Contact Shrewsbury

NO CHAIN

This immaculate detached family home offers spacious accommodation and is decorated to a high standard and fitted to a high specification.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 3 Reception & Conservatory
- Double Garage & Parking
- Landscaped Gardens
- Views Of Breidden Hills & Llanymynech Hill
- Current EPC Rating D



Plas Cerrig, Wern
Price: £560,000

Contact Oswestry

NEW

This extraordinary detached family home dates back to 1803 and offers characterful accommodation throughout and must be viewed to be appreciated. The property is complimented by a detached self contained annexe and 1.5 acres of grounds. The accommodation is spacious and offers four bedrooms in the main house and one bedroom in the annexe.



View Cottage, Llanymynech
Price: £270,000

Contact Oswestry

This cottage benefits from magnificent views over the English/Welsh borderland to The Breidden Hills and across to the Shropshire Plain. Nestled on the side on Llanymynech Hill this property is a walkers dream with many routes and trails across unspoilt countryside, Offas Dyke or Montgomery Canal.

- 3 Double Bed Cottage
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Sits In Approx 0.65 Of An Acre
- Current EPC Rating E



Llanforda Rise, Oswestry
Price: £239,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

This detached bungalow is situated in a most sought after location within Oswestry Town within walking distance to the amenities and a regular bus service passing the door. The property requires some modernisation but does benefit from oil fired central heating and partial UPVC double glazing. Current EPC Rating F.



The Old School House, Knockin
Price: £425,000

Contact Oswestry

NEW

The Old School House is a most interesting, if not unique, period house of immense charm and character, attached to the former 'Headmistress' property. The property benefits from a recent scheme of updating and modernisation.

- Four Bedrooms
- Superb Accommodation
- Lovely views
- Must See



Llys Close, Oswestry
Price: £88,500

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

An ideal first time or investment purchase. Covered Entrance Porch, Lounge with gas fire, Kitchen with fitted units and oven, First Floor Landing with store cupboard, Double Bedroom with fitted wardrobe, Bathroom fitted with a three piece white suite, Car Parking, Garden, Garden Shed. The property benefits from double glazing and is situated in a pleasant cul de sac location. Current EPC E



Coopers Field, St Martins
Price: £121,000

Contact Oswestry

This deceptively spacious three bedroom family home with large attic room is situated in a quiet cul de sac location within a popular village. The accommodation is warmed by gas fired central heating and benefits from UPVC double glazing.

- Lounge, Kitchen Dining Room
- Bedroom One, Bedroom Two
- Bedroom Three, Bathroom
- Attic Bedroom
- Large Rear Garden
- Current EPC Rating D



Gertrude Cottage, St Martins
Price: £159,950

Contact Oswestry

A most charming cottage dating back to the early 1900's situated on an edge of village location with views of open countryside. Offering characterful accommodation and undergone a scheme of updating this family home must be viewed to be appreciated. Countryside walks, village amenities and commuter links are all nearby. Warmed by has fired Central heating. EPC Rating E.



Jasmine Gardens, Oswestry
Price: £165,000

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

A detached three bedroom family home situated in a pleasant and popular residential area within Oswestry. With open countryside and town amenities available within a few minutes walk this property is available for sale with NO CHAIN and must be viewed to be appreciated.

- Two Recp Rooms, Conservatory
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Garage, Gardens
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Current EPC Rating C



Colliery Road, St Martins
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

An immaculate four bedroom detached property situated in a village location within a short walk from a Nature Reserve and excellent village amenities. Built in 2000 this property offers spacious accommodation with individual design characteristics.

- WC, Kitchen Dining Room
- Utility Room, Lounge
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom with roll top bath,
- Parking, Garage, Gardens
- Current EPC Rating C



Kingsbury, Schhol Lane, St Martins
Price: £275,000

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN

Situated in a quiet cul de sac location this four bedroom family home needs to be viewed to be appreciated. The property sits centrally within a good size plot with mature gardens, double garage and ample parking.

- Kitchen Breakfast Room, Utility
- Lounge, Dining Room, Study
- Master Bedroom Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Storage, Parking
- Double Garage, Mature Gardens
- Current EPC Rating C



Saron Chapel, Craigllwyn
Price: £299,950

Contact Oswestry

A unique opportunity to purchase a converted chapel which has been designed and completed to a high specification throughout. Not only does this property offer character and charm with a contemporary feel it also is fuelled by efficient, fully zone controlled, renewable ground source heating. Located only 2.5 miles from Oswestry Town and near to the popular village of Trefonen this property benefits from open countryside views.



Waen Cottage, Llansantffraid
Price: £395,000

Contact Oswestry

A charming detached country cottage situated in approximately 1.280 acres of splendid gardens and grounds offering spacious characterful accommodation located in a pleasant rural location.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Paddock & Gardens
- Approx. 1.280 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

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CARAVAN HOOK UP Cable 34ft long £15, 24ft long £12, 01691 656855

CARAVAN STEPS Metal with rubber treads 2 steps, £25, 01691 656855

CHAIN SAW 14"Stihl, electric £14, £130 ono, 01691 662021

CHICKEN CO OPSuit 4-6 birds, very good condition, £50, 01691 657342

DORSA READY BED Unused cost £25, sell £10, 01691 656512

DOUBLE GLAZED PANELS Two 73x71 and one 45x35 £15, 01691 679570

ELVIS PRESLEY PLATES Three in a surround £15, each as new condition, 0779 1466757

FILING CABINET Cream and brown, four drawers, £40 ono, 01691 662021

FIRST BABY Car seat, black red, as new £20, 01691 650214

FOUR SEASON OAK Kitchen wall doors 15 for £200 5 glass x 500 7 wood x 300 2 wood x 600 1 display end, 01938 811301

FOUR SEASON OAK Kitchen base doors quality handles 1x600x703 high 5x300x703 high £100, 01938 811301

FOUR SEASON OAK Kitchen drawer fronts 10 for £100, 6 x 500 with handles 4x 600 with handles, 01938 811301

FOUR SEASONS OAK Kitchen dishwasher front 600x703 £60, 01691 811301

GEORGE FOREMAN Lean and mean grinding machine as new £12, 01691 679570

GIRLS BIKE Suit 5 years hardly used £18, 07510 523694

GRACO BABY CHAIRCar seat suit from tiny baby vgc, £40, 01691 656512

GRACO CLEO Travel system pram complete converts to pushchair £80, vgc, 01938 555512

HAYANA FLOOR TILES Beige Pack of 9 six boxes, new never used, £30, 01691 670358

HAVANS FLOOT TILES Pack of nine beige 13'x13'/- 1 sq metre 6 boxes brand new £30, 01691 570358

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MAXI COSI Pink car seat c/w 90degree swivel base, vgc, £10, 01691 523612

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OVAL DROP LEAF TABLE Dark oak, surface requires some work, £8, 01691 679570

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OVAL GARDEN TABLE Seats 6-8 hardwood dismantles for storage, £30, 01691 679570

PIANO STOOL Dark wood upholstered cushion lovely condition, £30 ono, 01691 650055

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If you have the above skills please visit the school website (www.ellesmere.com) for an application pack. Completed applications are to be submitted by 9.00am Tuesday 3rd June 2014 and sent to the Personnel Secretary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB. Tel: 01691 622321 or email harriet.jones@ellesmere.com.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and expects its staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be prepared to undergo Child Protection Screening, including checks with past employers and DBS. References will be sought and verified at the short-listing stage as part of our safeguarding children procedures.

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A traditional English courtyard tea room

Advertising feature

SIX months after taking over their new business Martin Portlock and Kate Roberts have transformed an Oswestry café into traditional English tea rooms.

The couple took over Courtyard Café last November and have transformed it into the quaint and charming Courtyard Tea Rooms.

And there's a warm welcome from the staff Lou, Claire and Leanne who have stayed on to work with new manager Pat Portlock.

The tea room is set back from the road situated within a quiet courtyard up the steps by the side of Hobos Florist on Leg Street. It has an inside seating capacity of 18 and outside courtyard of 22.

Delicious

Customers are greeted into a warm, comfortable and friendly environment where they can relax and enjoy a light refreshment or a delicious homemade meal.

The new menu offers a delightful range of food and drink options to tempt even the most discerning pallet.

The nut roast, lentil cheese loaf and the variety of salad options are proving popular and make a pleasing alternative. In addition you could be tempted by the 'specials of the day' which always include a roast dinner with fresh vegetables and homemade soup option.

There are also snacks and meal options available to accommodate people



The relaxing seating area outside The Courtyard Tea Rooms

with special diets.

Pat makes a wide variety of delicious cakes, scones and desserts creating a tempting display filling the café with mouth-watering aromas.

The delightful courtyard area offers customers the chance to enjoy the sunshine or sit in the shade surrounded by flowers and miniature trees.

Cut out this article and take it along to get a special offer of 10% off your bill until the end of June.

The Courtyard Tea Rooms



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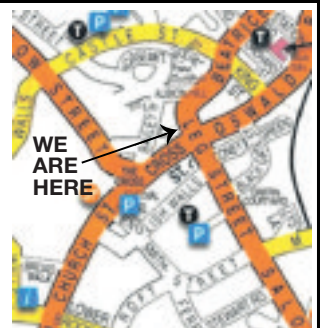
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ANTIQUES

Antiques to be found at architectural gem



Something for everyone at Bryn-y-grog Antique Centre at Marchwiel.

NESTLING alongside Bryn-y-grog Hall near Marchwiel, a mid-18th century neo-classical architectural gem, is Bryn-y-grog Antiques Centre.

Established 12 years ago, it has grown from strength to strength, now boasting over 40 independent dealers selling a vast range of goods including glass, china, giftware, paintings, clocks, jewellery,

Advertising feature

lighting, old Persian rugs, bric-a-brac and furniture dating from the 17th century to retro and modern.

The owners also buy any of the above items, with immediate cash given. House clearances can also be arranged.

If you have some free time over the May Bank Holiday go and see for yourselves. You will find some new shabby

chic units just opened with some great unique and very reasonably priced items.

One dealer has lovely old garden tools and all sorts of related gardening requirements. There is also a DIY section and a large timber department selling hard and soft woods at prices that are hard to beat.

On the parkland in front of the hall there are regular weekend events including car boot sales, horse events, circuses, and caravan club rallies. There is nearly always some activity.

ESTABLISHED OSWESTRY

Established is Oswestry's best hidden Gem. Tucked away down Beatrice Street behind Cheecios take away, the big blue building holds two floors of quirky retail experience. Downstairs you will discover furniture from many time periods anything from 1950's Hygena kitchenettes, mid-century classics, welsh dressers and individually selected and well cared for pre-owned Nik naks and collectables. The walls are adorned with art and mirrors and every nook and cranny hides another curios for you to discover. Upstairs in this large building there has been a recent refurbishment. Due to the huge success of Material Therapy across the road it was decided to give it more space and Established offered these requirements. The three rooms are crammed with textiles, all previously owned from vintage silk curtains and Toile to classic Laura Ashley and William Morris, linen table clothes, cushions and lace. Material Therapy offers services as well with an upholsterer on hand for advice and commissions, a seamstress that will turn up your hems or adapt a pair of curtains for you, a paper crafter who make bespoke gifts from pre-owned books and a furniture painter who provides a shabby chic-ing service to your own or in-store purchased furniture.

The staff are especially proud of the personal service and jolly welcome that we offer every customer and look forward to greeting customers both new and old.



SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Thursday May 22nd	7-9 Paper Sculpture for beginners	£10
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Wednesday 28th May	Bracelet Making 7-9	£5
Thursday 5th June	Beginners Knitting with Alterknitive Wk2 1pm - 2:30	
Thursday 5th June	Wet Felting Intermediary 7-9	£10
Thursday June 12th	Beginners knitting Wk3 1pm - 2:30	
Thursday 19th June	Beginners Knitting Wk4 1pm - 2:30	
Thursday 19th June	Beginners Wet Felting 7-9	£10
Saturday 12th July	Furniture Painting Workshop 10 - 3pm	£50

20 Beatrice Street, Oswestry, Sy11 1QG

Funding approval for good causes

VARIOUS good causes have received funding boosts after a village show proved to be another huge success.

The funding came from the proceeds of last year's Llansilin Show and Sheepdog Trials.

Sara Jones from the organisation said: "Llansilin Show and Sheepdog Trials had a very successful and well supported year in 2013. "At the committee meeting a presentation of cheques was made to local organisations.

"The committee are busy planning and preparing for this year's show which will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend with the main events happening on Bank Holiday Monday, the 25th August, 2014."

Among the local groups which received cash grants was the Stephen Powell Cancer Research organisation which was given £200. A similar amount was given to the appeal to build a bone cancer centre in the grounds of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital. Sarah Evans accepted the cheques on behalf of both causes.

Llansilin After School Club received £100 which was accepted by Louise Morrison. The Llansilin Committee for 2015 Meifod National Eisteddfod received £50.

Public asked for views on hall's restoration project

POTENTIAL ideas for the restoration of a historic estate have been discussed with members of the public by developers.

The plans for the Brogyntyn estate on the outskirts of Oswestry are being put forward by J-Ross Developments Ltd.

Plans for the estate, once the seat of the Ormsby-Gore family, were spelt out at the J-Ross Developments said the public exhibition formed part of its consultation on two planning applications proposed for the estate.

The applications will allow the estate's historic hall to be fully restored through a linked development scheme based at the estate's Home Farm complex.

The developers say having worked closely with English Heritage and Shropshire Council conservation department, the proposals are designed to secure a sustainable future for the estate.

Nick Scott, CEO for J-Ross Developments, part of the Pickstock Group, was on hand during the public consultation along with James Wade from Arrol & Snell Ltd, the architects for the scheme, to talk people through the proposals and hear their feedback.

Mr Scott said: "The turnout to the meeting shows

how much interest there is in the Brogyntyn Estate and how important it is to the local community.

"We had a positive response to the proposals and valuable comments from local residents and the wider community, which we will now be considering carefully."

The Pickstock Group acquired Brogyntyn in 2001. Since this time a programme of improvement works has taken place, which has included planned maintenance and the clearing and planting of trees in the park and pleasure gardens.

Despite the ongoing maintenance works, the firm says the condition of the hall is now critical.

Oswestry resident Susan Davies said: "It was a very positive meeting.

"We do have concerns about houses which could potentially be built."

New chairman warns of difficult times



Outgoing chairman Councillor John Brunt with new chairman Councillor Roche Davies at the hand-over

THE new chairman of Powys County Council has warned further difficult decisions lie ahead for the authority as it grapples with financial constraints.

Councillor Roche Davies, who represents Llandinam ward in Montgomeryshire, called on councillors to work together to face the challenges ahead after being elected chairman at the council's annual meeting.

Councillors have already agreed a series of cuts for this financial year to meet a £20 million funding gap.

Hundreds of jobs will be lost and services such as day centres for the elderly and Meals on Wheels will be hit as part of the new council budget.

As well as the loss of hundreds of jobs, the council is also looking at carrying out a major review of education

and post-16 services while council tax has risen by 4.5 per cent in a bid to make the necessary savings.

The budget will include the "re-configuration" of day centres for the elderly across the county although councillors have been assured they will not close, the scrapping of the council's Red Kite magazine and changes to the staff lease car scheme.

NEWS in brief

Inquest says death was accidental

AN 85-year-old widow died at a nursing home after leaving hospital following a fall, an inquest heard.

Edith Irene Woollam was a resident at Gadlers Hall Nursing Home, in Ellesmere, when she suffered fractured ribs in a fall.

Mrs Woollam was admitted to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on April 16 but released when doctors ruled it would have been too dangerous to operate.

The inquest, in Shrewsbury, heard a post-mortem revealed the primary cause of death was a collapsed lung, with senile dementia as a secondary cause. Coroner John Ellery recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Council voices homes concern

PARISH councillors say they are "extremely concerned" about housing plans which could substantially increase the number of homes in a picturesque hamlet.

The plans would increase the number of properties in Hindford by 64 per cent, Whittington Parish Council says.

Members are extremely concerned about the number of houses the applicant wished to build on land outside the village boundary, claiming it will help Shropshire Council with their building land shortage issue.

CHRONICLE



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NEWS
in briefAuthor to relive
childhood days

AUTHOR Abbie Ross will be reliving some of her childhood experiences in North Wales at a book signing and meet the author event in Oswestry next month.

Booka Bookshop will be full of 1970s nostalgia as Abbie talks about her new book, *Hippy Dinners: A Memoir of a Rural Childhood*, on June 5.

Tickets are £5, redeemable against book purchase, and 1970s-inspired refreshments are included.

Tickets should be booked in advance at the shop and anyone who is unable to attend but would like a signed copy of the book can contact Booka in advance.

Leisure centre
wins top award

OSWESTRY Leisure Centre has been named the most inspirational and innovative tourism and leisure facility in the West Midlands.

The centre, which was opened at the end of 2011, was one of 43 property schemes across the region shortlisted for honours at the RICS West Midlands Awards 2014.

Based in Shrewsbury Road, the centre won the tourism and leisure category at a ceremony hosted by celebrity architect George Clarke, of Channel 4's *Restoration Man*.

Pictures telling the story of town's new railway station



The Raven Square railway terminus site under construction in



Rail-laying in progress in November 1981 to extend the



Andy Carey prepares to hang the sign in 1982.

THEY say every picture tells a story, but we'll do better than that with three pictures telling a story.

Two of them were taken on the same day on the Welshpool & Llanfair railway on November 20, 1981.

The accompanying story ex-

by Toby Neal

plained what was going on: "Welshpool will soon boast its second permanent railway station. Work is going on throughout the winter to build a permanent station at Raven Square, Welshpool, for the Welshpool-Llanfair Caereinion Light Railway.

"A temporary stop at Welshpool was set up when the railway extended its line to take it into the town in July - 50 years after the railway closed. But now seven men working on a Community Enterprise Project are putting up a permanent platform and signal box and laying permanent rails to the stop at Raven Square."

The story went on: "Mr Ralph

Russell, manager of the railway, said the work was due to be completed next year, but the temporary facilities would probably be in use when the railway opens for the season at Easter.

"We have done quite well since the new extension opened with about 15 to 20 per cent more traffic than last year on the line," he said.

And the third picture brings it all to a conclusion. Taken in May 1982, it shows railway manager Andy Carey ready to hang the nameplate on the new signal box a few days before the official opening.

And who knows, there could be further developments yet - according to the railway's entry on Wikipedia there are currently dis-

Verdict of suicide on man found in woods

A 21-year-old man who was found hanged in woodlands by police had told friends he was going to kill himself, an inquest heard.

Homeless Christopher James Davies, of no fixed abode, had been living in a disused garage in Oswestry in the weeks leading up to his death.

The hearing at the Guildhall in Shrewsbury heard a written statement from a 15-year-old friend of Mr Davies, who said he had seen him on March 10 this year and found him to be "extremely down and upset".

The teenager said despite pleas, Mr Davies told friends he intended to kill himself and even handed over possessions including a watch, a wallet and a couple of lighters.

Toxicology reports showed there was no alcohol or drugs in Mr Davies' body at the time of death.

Coroner John Ellery said: "The medical cause of death is hanging.

"From what Mr Davies said to others on the day he died, and most clearly to the 15-year-old friend, as well as from the photographs, I am sure that this was not an accident.

"I record a verdict of suicide."

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Over the years Powys & Marches Stone Supplies has built up an enviable reputation for efficient service, prompt delivery and keen prices.

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The type of standing stone feature available

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THE ARTS

Exhibitions celebrate countryside life



Watercolour artist Sarah Gibbard, with her exhibition called **Waters Edge**, at the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre TWO exhibitions celebrating life and scenery in the countryside are on show at a gallery.

Prize-winning wildlife artist Steve Lingham, from Yorkshire, is showing his latest work at the Oswestry Visitor Exhibition Centre from now until the end of May.

Watercolour artist Sarah Gibbard's exhibition "Waters

Edge" reflects her travels along canals by narrowboat, mostly in Wales. A spokesman for the centre in the grounds of St Oswald's Parish Church said: "We have also been able to retain Hilary Cowley Greer's evocative wire and ceramic figurative sculptures for a second month."

Art exhibition and sale

THE Ellesmere art exhibition and sale will be hosted once again in the Big School Hall at Ellesmere College.

More than 70 artists and sculptors from all over the UK have now been confirmed to exhibit up to 300 pieces of art for sale at the

by **Graham Breeze**

end of May. This year sees the introduction of three new artists' workshops, which offer a unique occasion for artists to meet and exchange ideas, not simply through talking, but by making art side by side.

With more than 600 visitors last

year, the aim of the arts exhibition is to raise the profile of the arts in the region. The exhibition will feature a preview evening hosted by its patron Sir Algernon Heber-Percy, the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, on May 28 from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Normal opening hours will be from May 29 to May 31 from 11am to 9pm and June 1 from 11am to 4pm.

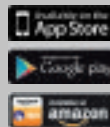


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David Spendiff, Scott Quigley, Naomi Stocker, Graeme Kirkham, Greg Draper, Martin Cap & Paul Rowley.

MEN are uniting at the ground of Welsh football champions, The New Saints, to raise awareness of prostate cancer with a mini five-a-side World Cup football match.

The Men United V Prostate Cancer event, on June 15, Father's Day, at The Venue in Oswestry, is being organised by Morgans of Oswestry and The New Saints Community Foundation.

Advertising feature

A family fun day will be held around the five-a-side event with teams of up to seven players, drawn from businesses in the area, playing group stages, quarter and semi finals before the final. The winners will be presented with the Soccerfest Charity Cup.

Martin Cap, owner of Morgans of Oswestry, urged businesses to put forward a team to aid Prostate Cancer UK.

"We would like to invite local businesses to join with us in helping to raise some much needed money for the Prostate Cancer UK cause. "It is time for all men to come together as Men United are against prostate cancer, one of the UK's biggest man killers. In the UK one in eight men will strafe cancer in their lifetime.

"The event will be a great day out, with plenty going on for those not playing football."

Anyone interested should call Paul Rowney on (01691) 671489.

Visit: www.gotothervenue.com | Tel: 01691 684840 | [f](#) [t](#)

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A great delight to spot crested newt in my pond

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



It was a warm evening and the night was verging on the muggy.

The fountain in the middle of my small garden pond was bubbling away pleasantly and presumably, invitingly, for I was not alone in the garden that night.

I shone the torch around looking for a hedgehog or common toad, and then I saw it.

Crossing the flagstones slowly yet purposefully, its great tail flopping behind it, a spike crest atop its back, the eyes gleaming in the torchlight. With a few strides it had reached the edge of the dark water below and without a moment's hesitation, it plopped into the pond and sunk beneath the surface. Truly an aquatic dragon.

I am not reading from the script of a low budget horror movie, but instead I am trying to describe the moment I set eyes on one of the most enigmatic, enchanting and appallingly rare creatures to grace our county. It belongs to a group of animals known as the herpiles and for me that label can only bring excitement! Any herp is exciting because it is almost certain to be a seldom seen species. In Shropshire there are nine or so - frogs, toads, lizards and snakes.

Any of those are worth the trouble of



The rare great crested newt pays a visit to Ben's pond

finding them but there is one more group of creatures that I've missed out and it is to this group that my dragon belonged - the newts. We have two main species in Shropshire, the common or smooth newt and the palmate newt. If you're lucky enough to have a garden pond, you can watch these fascinating beasts as the males court the females, quivering and flashing their exquisitely frilled tails.

Perhaps it's a little bit of an exaggeration to brand these beautiful yet diminutive amphibians as 'dragons' but hold on, for there is just one more species of newt that really is a leviathan and it was he who I have just

witnessed. The great crested newt is a genuinely impressive animal. It dwarfs its fellow newt species and with a bright red and yellow belly it really does look like some exotic denizen of the jungles.

Herps are usually the easiest animals to handle.

They rarely bite (with the rather important exception of venomous snakes) and they usually have a hard time getting away. Frogs, toads and slow worms are superb introductory species for children to get to (gentle) grips with. But not so the great crested newt. Sadly it's the same old story of the 'intensification of agriculture' and



It is a protected species so it's a case of 'look but don't touch'

'our changing land use and landscape' that are to blame for the demise of this species.

The UK is actually one of its last strongholds in Europe and even we can have trouble finding them. All this means, quite rightly, that it is now prohibited to touch or disturb it or its habitat. Entire building projects have been brought to their knees on the discovery of a great crested newt. So it is definitely a case of 'look, don't touch' and of course you should be very careful where you tread if, you occasionally wander around your garden at night!

Ben's work can be seen on request in Callaghan's Gallery, Shrewsbury.

Rugby legend saddles up to back charity

WELSH rugby legend and Dancing on Ice star Gareth Thomas will be taking on a gruelling 88-mile cycle road race which passes close to the Shropshire border in the name of charity.

Thomas has been named as an ambassador for the Etape Cymru, which is said to be Britain's toughest closed cycling road race.

The former Welsh Grand Slam-winning rugby union captain joined a team of journalists - including The Chronicle's Dave Meakin - taking some of the toughest climbs on the route ahead of the event on September 14. The mini-challenge included the 6.1km Horseshoe Pass climb, parts of which have a 20 per cent gradient.

Thomas, who won 100 rugby caps for his country, said he had a number of reasons for taking part: "Firstly, I'm a big supporter of Macmillan Cancer Support. They're one of the charities involved and I think the work they do is fantastic.

"The other reason is that it's an excellent way to keep fit. I like the sociability of it; it's something you can do with your mates, which I think is really important."

Describing taking on the Horseshoe Pass, Dave Meakin said: "I noticed the professionally shaved legs of the guy to my left, and got the rotten feeling I was in the company of some serious riders. I felt sick.

"Fortunately, my recent forays on two wheels held me in good stead, and rather than collapsing on the side of the road in a hyper-ventilating heap, I was able to enjoy the fine spring weather and an outstanding view from the top of the pass.

"It was so good it would give the Alps a run for their money.

"It's not until I was flaked out on a grass bank in the Ponderosa Cafe car park, that one of the event organisers told me that Etape Cymru participants have to cycle over 30 miles before attempting the Horseshoe climb.

"Elation turned to embarrassment very quickly.

"Our second climb was a narrow road called 'The Shelf' that ascended to a place disconcertingly called 'Worlds End'.

"At 1410ft above sea level it's the highest point on the route."

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NEWS
in briefFlytipping cases
on the increase

FLYTIPPING cases have increased by more than 1,000 across Shropshire over the past year, figures released today reveal.

There was a 25 per cent increase, up by 340 from 1,320 to 1,660.

Councillor Claire Wild, cabinet member for environmental maintenance, said: "Flytipping is dangerous and irresponsible, and costs council taxpayers' money to clear it up."

"It is important that people report incidents, along with any information that could be used as evidence."

Flytipping can be reported on council websites or by calling Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9006.

A chance to try
out table tennis

A NEW table tennis club is set to open in Morda tomorrow (Friday).

The club, to be held at the Village Hall, will be open to all ages and abilities.

Coaching will be provided.

Sessions will be held for under 13s from 6pm to 7.30pm, and then for 14s and over and adults from 7.30pm.

There will be a charge of £2 per person per session.

For more information about the formation of the club contact Jim Reeves on 07790 409 664.

Pre-school's delight after 'outstanding' Ofsted rating

by Pam Kingsley

STAFF and parents at a pre-school in Shropshire are delighted after Ofsted inspectors judged it to be outstanding in all areas.

Ruyton XI Towns Pre-School, which operates from St John the Baptist C of E Primary School in Church Street, was praised by inspectors for its "outstanding and inspirational" teaching. It was also praised for the way in which children make a smooth transition from the pre-school to the school.

Stephanie Hughes, manager of the pre-school, said: "We moved to new premises in April 2011 and were inspected six months after that when we got a good rating."

"When we were at the old pre-school in the village hall we didn't have any outdoor play areas. It was a shared building so we had to pack everything away at the end of every session and if we wanted to go outside we'd have to go for a walk."

"Since we moved we've done lots of fundraising to enhance the outdoor environment. We've put in some planters and digging bed with potatoes, a new sandpit and slide and a mudpit."

The changes have all contributed towards the result of the Ofsted inspection, which took place during the first week of April.

Mrs Hughes said: "All the staff and the parents are delighted with the inspection. We're especially pleased because under Ofsted's new criteria it's even more difficult to gain an outstanding rating than before."

"We would like to thank the children, parents, committee and staff involved for their support and hope they will all celebrate in our success."

The report said: "Children feel very safe and secure at pre-school. They are very comfortable in the familiar surroundings and show great respect for the environment."

Plan will 'lift surgery bid'

THE creation of a leisure complex in Ellesmere will strengthen its case for a new medical centre, civic leaders have claimed.

Residents have been calling for a new medical practice for years and hope the proposed new development by the Wharf will aid their cause.

The proposed leisure complex will involve new homes, a hotel, restaurant, marina, leisure spa and space for holiday cabins and caravans.

The idea first became public about 18 months ago and councillors say a planning application is "imminent".

Councillor Alan Clarke, mayor of Ellesmere, said: "Not only will the development create the housing stock we need up to and beyond 2020, equally jobs will be provided. It will also help with the case of getting new medical centre as the extra number of people will demand it."

Hope House midsummer walk



Natalie Alford, from the Lyon Quays ready for the walk

ABOUT 250 women are expected to don their fairy wings for a midsummer night walk in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice.

The four-mile walk on June 21 will be led by a team from The Lion Quays Country Club just north of Oswestry.

The Lion Quays is helping with the costs of the event and staff will be getting involved on the night.

Michelle Bowen, country club manager, said: "We are really pleased to be able to support such a fantastic charity and are looking forward to putting on our fairy wings and leading the walk."

The event will start from the hospice gardens in Morda, near Oswestry, and is expected to run from 11.30pm to 2am.

Registration costs £15 or £12 each for groups of five or more. For details call (01691) 671671 or visit at www.hopehouse.org.uk/ events

Welcome for start of work on bridge

THE modernisation of a 200-year-old Thomas Telford-built bridge will make the Llangollen Canal more accessible, a Welsh Assembly Member has said.

Clwyd South AM Ken Skates first wrote to Glandwr Cymru - the Canal and River Trust in Wales - more than two years ago after a constituent contacted him with concerns over the 19th-century Postles Bridge in Trevor.

Mr Skates said the cobble access ramps to the roving bridge, built to allow horses to cross the canal, rendered it out of bounds to people in chairs, on bikes and pushing prams.

But now the structure and a stretch of towpath are being modernised to improve access - with an expected completion date of the end of the month.

Mr Skates said: "I'm delighted that, more than two years after I first raised concerns, work will soon be finished on this important local landmark and it will be much more easily accessible for many more people."

"With its location next to the Trevor Basin, the bridge is a key link to Llangollen." Work has also started on the resurfacing of a stretch of canal towpath in Llangollen.

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Forester big player in sector

By Graham Breeze

It's no surprise Subaru is picking up gongs for the latest Forester model to tackle the mid-range SUV sector.

Subaru bosses knew things were going their way when 4X4 Magazine named the company's best selling model as SUV of the Year.

And it got even better when the USA's influential Motor Trend magazine awarded the vehicle the 2014 Sport/Utility of the Year.

The all-new Forester went on sale in the UK 12 months ago, building on the model's established reputation as a capable SUV with improved performance, safety and efficiency, and a better cabin.



The Forester is now available with Subaru's latest 2.0-litre petrol and diesel Boxer engines, with all versions featuring the trademark symmetrical all-wheel drive as standard.

The model has always been popular with those looking for an accomplished off-roader but demanding comfort on it, and now there's a 100,000-mile warranty and a reputation for reliability.

When the new Forester went on sale in the UK it was the fourth-generation of the SUV and has quickly become the Japanese brand's most popular model.

Forester offers a high and commanding driving position and cabin, and cargo size has been increased by expanding the wheelbase and widening the body.

The high-speed ride is good but things get a bit bumpier at lower speeds and I've



'Forester offers a high and commanding driving position and cabin, and cargo size has been increased'

felt more comfortable steering some of the opposition models.

All Foresters have twin front and side airbags, plus curtain airbags which cover both rows of seats and there are active anti-whiplash headrests.

Stability control, hill-start assist and Iso-fix child-seat mountings are standard on all models, along with an engine immobiliser. XE models and above get eight-way electrically-adjustable seats and the steering wheel has plenty of adjustment, too.

The dashboard has large, user-friendly

buttons, but the sat-nav system looks a bit of an after-thought and proved too complicated.

Subaru designers have significantly improved the quality and ambience inside the new Forester compared to the outgoing model, through the use of higher grade materials on the dashboard, centre console and doors.

Pricing is competitive too. The base 2.0i costs just over £25,000 and the range-topping Lineotronic is £31,000, giving Subaru a definite edge in a very competitive sector.

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03 (53) VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 SRI. Sapphire Black	£2,250

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11 (61) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi X3 AWD Sand Track	£16,750
10 (10) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0CRDi XS 4wd phantom black,	Due In
09 (09) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 VTI + bright red, 27,000 miles	£7,650
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08 (08) HONDA CRV 2.2 CDTi ES Black	Due In
08 (08) TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 XT-3 Black	£9,950
08 (08) FREELANDER 2 Td4 GS 2ermat silver	£12,850
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05 (55) LANDROVER FREELANDER Td4 adventurer 5dr black	Due In
05 (05) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS Silver	£4,850
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Manual 5-door. Bright Red, FSH,
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1.6 CRDi EST Manual, Metallic Blue,
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2012 12 SKODA FABIA 1.2
5-door, manual, Metallic Black,
17,000 miles, 1 owner
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2011 61 VW GOLF GT TDI 140bhp
5-door, Manual, Metallic Silver, only
16,000 miles, FSH
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6-speed, Manual, Bright Red,
268 bhp, 70,000 miles, FSH, Full
Leather **£15,999**



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2012 12	CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D SPORT Manual. Metallic Blue, Black roof, 11,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£12,999
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2010 60	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, only 5,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£8,499
2010 10	FORD MONDEO 1.6 EDGE Metallic Grey, 54,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2006 06	FORD FUSION + 1.6 5-door, Manual, 49,000 miles, Metallic Blue	SOLD
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2010 10	FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi 3-door, Bright Red, 40,000 miles, cheap tax, FSH, 1 Owner	£6,999
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2010 10	MAZDA MX5 .18 ROADSTER Manual, Bright Red, only 6,000 miles, 1 Owner, Outstanding Condition, FSH.....	£10,999
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2010 60	PEUGEOT 3008 CROSSOVER ACTIVE 1.6 HDi Manual, Red Metallic, One Owner, only 6000 miles	£9,499
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2010 10	SEAT IBIZA 1.6 SPORT DSG 3-door, Red, 62,000 miles.....	£5,999
2012 12	SKODA FABIA 1.2 5-door, manual, Metallic Black, 17,000 miles, 1 owner	£7,299
2008 08	SKODA SUPERB ELEGANCE 2.0 TDI 140BHP Saloon. Bright Blue Metallic, 24,000 miles, FSH, top spec	SOLD
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2008 08	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 BREEZE HATCH 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 31,000 miles.....	SOLD
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2012 12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi 3-door. Metallic Black, 20,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH.....	£6,999
2002 02	VAUXHALL CORSA SXi 1.7 CDTi. Green Metallic, 74,000 miles.....	£1,999
2006 06	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 7 Seater, Manual, 53,000 miles, FSH.....	SOLD
2008 08	VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic, 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic.....	£16,999
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2006 56	VW GOLF 1.6 FSi MATCH 49,000 miles, Metallic Blue, FSH.....	SOLD
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SPORT

Tennis side prove to be too sharp for Hollies

LED by captain Gary Edwards, Oswestry Tennis Club's men's first team launched their Shropshire Doubles Summer League season with a narrow victory in their home fixture against Hollies 2.

The first pairing of new member Dave Clements and Steve Mosford eventually conceded a close defeat on two tiebreak sets 6-7, 6-7. They then played the Hollies second pairing, losing in straight sets 2-6, 5-7.

The team's second pairing of captain Edwards and Matt Grice had more success, beating the Hollies second duo by 6-0, 6-1 and then their rivals' first pair by 6-3, 6-2.

With the match tied at two rubbers each and four sets each, the result was decided on countback of games won, which saw Oswestry prevail by 43 games to 33 to take five of the available eight points.

Their second fixture against promoted team from last season, Town Walls, proved to be tougher and the second pair of Simon Jackson partnering Matt Grice lost both of their rubbers in straight sets 3-6, 5-7 and 4-6, 4-6 respectively despite having a number of opportunities in both which they were unable to convert.

The ladies second team played their second away fixture of the season against the Hollies second team - and the evening proved to be very lengthy.

The first pair of Carol Slater and Speth Cumpston prevailed after two hours and they took the rubber in straight sets 7-5, 7-6.

The second pair of captain Linda Davies paired with Linda Clark for the first time had a tough time against the Hollies second pair going down 2-6, 1-6.

In the reverse rubbers, Slater and Cumpston were outclassed in the first set against the Hollies second pair going down 1-6 but they regrouped to take the second set 6-4 which took the rubber to a third set tie-break which they won (11-9).

The two Lindas took the first set 7-5 before closely dropping the second 4-6. They then lost the third set tie-break 0-1 (8-10). With honours even at five sets each, the result was decided on games won with Hollies running out the victors.

Local golf club returns

HILL VALLEY
Ladies: May Stablerford (Emerald)
Division 1: H Dinsdale 28pts (20); S DeBarro 28pts (24); S Tamura 26pts (25). Division 2: C Ellwood 39pts (31); S Silles 30pts (29); M Hollins 28pts (36).
Mail on Sunday Round 4: Hill Valley beat Bromborough 3.5-1.5.
Ladies Open: H Dinsdale (HV), B Copeman, Brookfield, L Hawksworth, Onneley 69pts; L McGovern, B King, B Lowndes (Alasager) 69pts; S Lockett (HV) B Robinson, M Young (Brookfield) 67pts.
MILE END
Sunday 9 Hole Social Winning Team: A Eke, J Seal, G Turner 46pts. Runners up: D Bradbury, J Roberts, R Osborne 40pts.
Radford Cup: P Dring & C Evans 64.4; S Ball & S Ball 64.6; P & S O'Conner 64.8. **Walcot Cup:** I Thomas 80-15-66; S Smith 61-15-66; D Griffiths 86-20-66. **Wednesday 9 Hole Social:** N Tucker 21pts; H Cawley 15pts; J Northwood 15pts.
OSWESTRY
Presidents Prize: K Miller 38pts; S Thompson 37pts; B Litter 36pts (C/B); A Allen 35pts; L Taylor 36pts; C Harrison 35pts. Best gross: G Evans 74. Nearest the pin: T Thompson 53inches.
Mixed Foursomes: J J Hewett & E Moss 67; S & E Pearce 67.5; O Hughes & K Jones 71.5 (C/B); M & C Smith 71.5; V & Hyde 73.
J Youens Trophy Winner: P Shore 78-16-62. Best Gross: M Clark 78. Division One: H Hollins 83-14-69 (C/B); T Brough 85-16-69.

Frankton slip again after failing to set big target

FRANKTON'S woes continued in the Shropshire Cricket League premier division as they crashed to a seven wicket loss at Albrighton to remain at the foot of the table.

Electing to bat first, they could only muster 99 all out, despite 47 from Jason Brooks, Jason Summers taking 5-32.

Despite early wickets from Stuart Lamine and Jacob Northwood, there was a realistically little hope of defending the modest total as Albrighton got home with time and wickets to spare.

ELLESMERE'S hopes of keeping up the pressure on the early leaders in division two were frustrated by a defiant tail-end partnership as they were forced to settle for a winning draw at home to Beacon.

Electing to bat first on winning the toss, the Lakesiders were dismissed for 210 in the 44th over, Paul Mochan the mainstay

with 73, with a six and 11 fours, while skipper Tom Davies weighed in with 29.

They looked set for the win after reducing their visitors to 61-9, Alex Duncan taking 4-26, but could not remove the last pair as Steve Rees (16no) and Chris Cook (24no) remained defiant to take their side to 103-9 by the close.

MONTGOMERY had a losing draw in a high scoring affair at KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY in a division one clash between two sides looking to climb away from the lower regions of the table.

Knockin made the most of winning the toss to rattle up 256-6 in 50 overs, Barry Jones revelling in the sun with an unbeaten 90 off 80 deliveries, including three sixes and 11 fours, while Steve Gray also hit an enterprising 49.

It was tough going for the bowlers who

stuck to their task well, James Corfield taking 2-60. Monty lost opener Aaron Ruffcock and No3 Ian Davies for ducks in reply, and were tottering on 14-3 at one stage, but after that poor start they produced a solid showing with the bat.

Sam Davies (59) and skipper Rob Bennett (53) both hit half centuries as their side closed on a creditable 211-6, Harry Wilkinson also chipping in with a useful 25 down the order. Matty Evans picked up three wickets for the hosts.

MONTGOMERY II held the upper hand in their winning draw against KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II in the reserve division two.

Stan Davies (32) and opener Thomas Corfield (24) helped Monty to 139-9 in 45 overs, with Joel Whitehouse taking 5-39 off 15 overs and James Evans 3-36 off 10.

It was tough going for Knockin as they

held out on 92-9, Eric Heath holding the home bowlers at bay with a defiant 29 not out. Rob Yewdall took 4-20 and Ieuan Griffiths 3-16 but their efforts were not quite enough to force the outright victory.

WELSHPOOL III had a tough afternoon in the field in the sunshine as KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY racked up 293-8 in 40 overs in their division fourA clash.

Robert Oliver led the way for Knockin with 78 and Dave Jones weighed in with 56, while John Gough was the most successful of the visiting bowlers with 3-17 off four overs while there were two wickets apiece for Jack Windsor and Nick Roberts.

Opener Gough then laid the foundations with 68 in reply, featuring in a solid first wicket stand with Chris Proctor (48) before Dave Knight (38) ensured a losing draw as Pool closed on 199-5 in reply.

On-a-roll Ellesmere are setting a hot pace

HIGH-RIDING Ellesmere A extended their lead to eight points at the top of the Oswestry and District Bowls League division three after sweeping aside Royston A 9-1 at home.

The leaders have now won all five outings this season, with Courtney Metcalfe taking the coppers to seven, while Dennis Jones (21-8) and Ian Metcalfe (21-9) were other good single figure winners.

Ellesmere B, however, find themselves off the pace after slipping to their second defeat of the season when dented 6-4 (141-120) at third placed Chirk B.

FOX LANE moved top of division four after seeing off previous leaders Ruabon A 7-3 (149-119) at home, Simon Hayman winning 21-5 and Mike Haycocks 21-6.

LANFYLLIN A remain bottom after their narrow 6-4 home loss to Bersham who took the aggregate by just one shot, 136-135.

YE OLDE CROFFE B remain top of division six despite suffering a 7-3 (124-146) home reverse to second placed Ruabon C, with Ted Lewis their best winner to 12. Results:

Division two: Black Lion 4 Llangollen A 6 (139-140), Crittins C 7 Ye Olde Croffe A 3 (148-120), Johnstonstown C 7 Weston Rhyn A 3 (154-127).

Division three: Chirk B 6 Ellesmere B 4 (141-120), Ceiriog Valley B 8 Church C 2 (153-86), Llanyfyllin A 9 Royston A 1 (164-110), Plas Kynaston A 7 Whittington E 3 (129-114), Weston Rhyn C 4 Johnston D 6 (130-141), Plas Kynaston A 7 Whittington E 3 (129-114).

Division four: Corwen 8 Llanyfyllin B 3 (133-106), Fox Lane 7 Ruabon A 3 (149-119), Llanyfyllin A 4 Bersham 6 (135-136), Llangollen B 8 Ceiriog Valley C 2 (127-140), Llanyfyllin C 4 Weston Rhyn B 6 (127-140), Llanyfyllin C 8 Overton 2 (155-125).

Division five: Church D 8 Chirk C 2 (157-86), Crittins D 6 Llanyfyllin B 4 (146-125), Cynwyd B 8 Royston B 2 (149-116), Llanyfyllin D 5 Johnston D 5 (137-136), Overton C 10 Whittington D 0 (168-103).

Division six: Johnston E 8 Llanyfyllin E 2 (159-89), Llanyfyllin B 6 Cynwyd C 4 (145-128), Weston Rhyn D 6 Weston Rhyn E 4 (144-127), Ye Olde Croffe 3 Ruabon C 7 (124-146).

Morda Roaders lose their way again in run chase

OSWESTRY'S cricketers had some bright moments but ultimately suffered a disappointing 20-run defeat at Moseley to lose ground in the Birmingham Cricket League division one

In a game which was a carbon-copy of the one at Wolverhampton two weeks earlier, once again Oswestry allowed their opponents to get two many runs, and then batted badly when it was their turn at the crease.

A magnificent catch by Warrick Fynn dismissed Moseley's danger man Neville Talbot in the fourth over of the game. But, despite some good work by their spinners, Oswestry still lost their way towards the end of the innings, and Moseley ended on 191-7.

Debutant Matt Gregson took two wickets with his first three balls for the club, and finished with 3-32, but Oswestry never recovered from losing early wickets in their reply, despite a fine 71 by Joe Clarke.

Apart from Clarke, no-one else in the top six of the order reached double figures, and they were eventually all out for 171.

Target

OSWESTRY II were far too strong for Quatt II at Morda Road, running out winners by seven wickets in their Birmingham League Division Two (North) clash.

Youngster Xavie Clarke took 4-12 and Adam Lloyd 2-30 as Quatt were bowled out for 127.

Josh Kirk (33no), Luke Jones (25no) and Alex Clark (20) saw Oswestry to 131-3 in reply.

OSWESTRY III bounced back from a seemingly hopeless position to grab a four-wicket win at Calverhall - their first victory of the season in the Shropshire League division three.

CRICKET

By John Bridgwater

Adam Woodcock took a fine 6-36 and sipper Richard Jones 2-20 as Calverhall were bowled out for 161.

This target looked way out of reached for Oswestry when they lost their first two wickets without a run on the board.

But sensible batting by James Bradbury (35no), Adam Woodcock (27), Dave Shaw (24) and Richard Jones (25no) saw them home at 166-6, with skipper Jones hitting a six to win the match.

OSWESTRY IV were no match for Iscody and Fenns Bank II at Oswestry School, and went down by six wickets in the reserve division three.

No Oswestry batsman reached double figures as the side was bowled out for just 65, and extras were comfortably the top scorer with 20!

The highlight of the innings point of view was the performance of 12-year-old Oliver Roberts, who batted 27 overs for his 9no. Jake Chaplin was the most successful Iscody bowler with 5-15.

Harry Robinson's unbeaten 29 led Iscody to 66-4, despite a good spell by Allan Morris, who took 2-1 off five overs.

*Oswestry will be looking to get back on the winning trail when they visit Old Hill on Saturday. The Seconds are at home to Penn, and the Fourths visit Ludlow Fourths.

Oswestry Thirds take on Wheaton Aston at Morda Road on Sunday.

Birmingham and District Cricket League

to spin the sun

ut CAE GLAS suffered a six
at Gatacre to remain in the
League division two table.

ing the toss, they laboured to
of early wickets left them

the main resistance coming
patient 41 at the top of the

Peter Matthews (16no) were
it into double figures as the
tch, with the miserly Jon

h taking three wickets.

ed to be equally patient but,
by the half way stage, they
overs to spare for the loss of

of Chris Barnes (28no) and

DIVISION 1

P	W2	L	A	BatBwl	Pts		
Knowle & D	4	3	0	1	66		
West Brom D'mth4	3	1	0	2	4	66	
Berkswell	4	3	1	0	1	3	64
Kenilworth Wrdns4	2	1	1	4	4	53	
Walmley	4	2	2	0	7	5	52
Barnet Green	4	2	0	2	1	0	51
Brookhampton	4	2	2	0	3	4	47
Kidderminster Vic	4	1	3	0	10	8	38
Himley	4	1	3	0	7	10	37
Dorridge	4	1	3	0	5	9	34
Walsall	4	1	3	0	3	11	34
Shrewsbury	4	1	3	0	5	6	34

DIVISION 1

P	W2	L	A	BatBwl	Pts		
Ombersley	4	3	1	0	1	3	64
Bromsgrove	4	2	2	0	3	5	53
Harborne	4	2	1	1	1	6	52
Barnards Green	4	2	2	0	4	4	50
Shinall	4	2	1	1	2	1	48
Moseley	4	2	1	1	1	0	46
Smethwick	4	1	2	1	6	4	40
Old Hill	4	1	2	1	2	8	35
Oswestry	4	1	2	1	3	6	34
Wolverhampton	4	1	2	1	4	3	34
Wolverhampton	4	1	2	1	3	4	32
Wellington	4	0	3	1	6	5	16

SECOND TEAMS

DIVISION 2 (N)

P	W2	L	A	BatBwl	Pts		
Penn	4	3	0	1	0	0	65
Tamworth	4	3	0	1	0	0	65
Oswestry	4	3	0	1	1	3	64
Brewod	4	2	2	0	0	0	50
Smethwick	4	2	1	1	3	2	50
Hawkins C & R	4	2	2	0	6	3	49
Milford Hall	4	1	2	1	5	5	35
Fordhouses	4	1	2	1	2	7	34
Whitchurch	4	1	2	1	3	4	32
Wombourne	4	0	3	1	10	7	20
Newport	4	0	2	2	2	6	18
Quatt	4	0	2	2	2	14	

Salver success for Henlle Ladies



Sara Meehan and Pam Tattersall - winners of the Argles Brealey Silvers Salvors



Trophy time - Henlle Park Presidents Cup winners: Pete Grimley (left) and Mark Williams (right) with Ralph Tomley

Presidents Cup winners

PETE Grimley and Mark Williams lifted this year's Presidents Cup at Henlle Park with a score of 43 points.

Some 76 members took part, with the weather staying fine and dry up until the last few holes, when a deluge of rain forced players to seek shelter.

The Shot Gun Start competition was followed with a breakfast brunch in the Club House.

Grimley and Williams were presented with the trophy by Club President, Ralph

Tomley who congratulated the prize winners and thanked all the members for their continued support.

Meanwhile, Henlle Park Golf Club members, Sara Meehan and Pam Tattersall won the Argles Brealey County Greensomes Stableford competition held at Bridgnorth Golf Club with a score of 36 points.

The duo were presented with Argles Brealey Silvers Salvors and also received silver spoons and vouchers.

Ellesmere's Zac wins his England cap

ELLESMERE College student Zac Xiourouppa has received his first full international cap for the England under-16s rugby union side.

Zac, 16, met up with the squad for a week to play against sides from Wales and Scotland.

During the home countries competition England took all the honours beating Scotland 34-22 and Wales 24-22.

The back row said: "I was thrilled to be able to wear the English Rose and to represent my country."

"Like all young, modern rugby players I was also extremely excited about how much kit I would get."

Zac has been a prominent player at the school since joining at the age of 13, where he has represented County, Midlands and Worcester Warriors squads.

His latest call-up continues the school's tradition for producing international youth players who are all aspiring to become professionals.

He is not the only player who has been impressing the talent scouts, Efan Jones, also 16, represented Wales in a non-cap match against England which meant two Ellesmere College team mates played against each other.

TNS ladies hit six of the best to win cup final

THE New Saints ladies got in on the act as they lifted the Shropshire Womens Cup for the third year running with an emphatic 6-0 success over Allcott Ladies in the final at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow.

Following the success of the men this season, the ladies were not to be outdone as they took the lead through Emily Ridge after just 43 seconds, and they quickly doubled the advantage courtesy of Sophie Edwards on three minutes.

Laura Morris made it 3-0 on 14 minutes, and that was how the scoring stayed in the first half before three more goals in the second period sealed the cup triumph.

Jaime Duggan bagged a fourth on 51 minutes, Chloe Mapp then converted a penalty on the hour mark before Ridge completed the scoring with her second of the final on 74 minutes.

Meanwhile, TNS under-19s reached the final of the North East Wales FA Cup with a 2-0 success over Flint Town United courtesy of second half goals from Ryan Kershaw and Jordan Wells.

Steve Evans' side had enough chances to have been ahead at the break but made the breakthrough in the second period when midfielder Kershaw chipped the opener after latching onto a pass from Taylor James.

That lead was soon doubled when Wells pounced on a loose ball after Flint had failed to clear a corner to set up a final clash with Airbus UK on Friday, May 23.

Coach Steve Evans was delighted with the win, adding: "I thought we were brilliant tonight. Defensively we were so solid which gave us the platform to go and score the two goals.

"I am so pleased for my players to get to another final which they thoroughly deserve through all their hard work throughout the season."

Olympians rise to the challenge

OSWESTRY Olympians rose to the challenge as some 40 runners tackled the Mynydd Myfr hill run in the sunshine with Tim Tansley finishing a gallant second.

Runners tackled approximately 6.5 Kilometres (four miles) of mixed terrain on trail paths, through farmland and wooded areas and country lanes including climbs totalling 150 metres plus (500ft).

The event was an early taster event for the delightful Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend from May 23-26, which raises funds for various charities including the Kenyan School Appeal.

This year's race was won by Jez Brown from Buckley AC in a time of 23m seven seconds, while Oswestry Olympian Tim Tansley came a super second in 24-45, and unattached local runner Tom Heard came third in 25-39s.

Selected Oswestry Olympians results: Fifth Steve Roberts 1st 20:26-24s; 12th Rob Davies M45 28-22; 13th Anthony Grogan M55 29-48; 14th Ali Ticker 1st F45 29-56; 16th Trevor Seare 2nd M60 30-09s; 21st Tania Brandon 3rd F45 31-07; 24th Vicki Luxmoore F45 33-12; 28th Barbara Ward 1st F60 33-55; 29th Pete Nesbitt 1st M50 34-46; 30th John O'Shaughnessy m50 1st Chairman 34-54; 31st Will Davison M55 2nd Chairman 35-00; 33rd Liz Park 2nd F40

Llanfair finish season with Central Wales Cup joy

LLANFAIR United capped a terrific season by lifting the Central Wales Cup for the first time with a fully merited 2-0 victory over Berriew in the final at Newtown's Latham Park.

"No one could argue we were the better team and definitely deserved to win the cup, even they agreed," said Llanfair boss Rhys Stephens.

"They had a good spell for 10 minutes in the first half, but for the rest of the game we were on top and looked quite comfortable. It was a fantastic team performance from us."

The game could hardly have started much better for the Spar Mid Wales League

division one runners-up who took the lead after just seven minutes when Ryan Davies headed over the keeper from Richard Ainsley's free-kick.

Berriew responded well and almost levelled when a low, long range strike came back off the post, and they went close again soon when Steve Andrew cleared a header off the line following a defensive mix-up.

Paul Griffiths almost increased Llanfair's lead when latching on to a neat through ball by James Davies but saw his one-on-one effort well saved.

Keeper Lee Andrew then made a fantastic save just before half-time to keep out a headed effort before James Davies doubled

the Llanfair advantage.

After being put through by Paul Griffiths, Davies ran past the retreating defender and slotted into the net to send the travelling Llanfair crowd wild.

The second half saw few chances and United generally looking comfortable, although Andrew in goal was called into one save.

Silverware

Davies blazed one effort over the bar at the other end, but the scoreline stayed 2-0 with Llanfair well worth the victory that saw them hoist the trophy for the first time.

BERRIEW'S season had a silver lining

as they landed the Spar Mid Wales League Cup after overcoming Bow Street 2-1 in the final at Llandrindod Wells.

After the disappointment of losing to Llanfair United in the final of the Central Wales Cup a few days before, Mike Pearce's side bounced back to make sure they finished the campaign with some silverware.

A largely undistinguished and tightly fought final was settled in favour of Berriew with two goals in the last 20 minutes.

Elliot Jones made the breakthrough when lobbing the keeper and Karl Seliearts added a second with five minutes left, before Bow Street bagged a consolation with a penalty two minutes into injury time.

Morda fall at final hurdle as chances go begging

SPURNED chances proved costly as Morda United missed out on the Mercian Regional League premier division cup after suffering a slender 2-1 loss to Shifnal United 97 at Telford's New Bucks Head.

Despite dominating the first half and taking the lead through a Shaheen Miah free-kick, Morda's failure to put the ball in the net cost them dearly as Shifnal took the cup through second half goals from Stuart Polak and Dan Biggins.

Craig Rogers' side dominated the early play, spending most of the time in their opponents' half as they looked to finish the season with some silverware.

Shawn Melussi went close with a free-kick, and then fed the in-form striker Chris Bishop whose chip from the left flew narrowly wide.

Bishop then had a shot blocked and another long range effort saved by the foot of impressive keeper Tom Whittaker.

Morda looked solid at the back with Leigh Waddingham and Eliot Howes also finding space to break forward on the right.

They continued to make the running with a Melussi free-kick being blocked by the keeper and Sam Litchfield went close with the follow up.

Despite all the pressure, which also saw them denied by a goal line clearance, Morda struggled to open the scoring from free play. They finally made the breakthrough from a free kick for a push on Eliot Howes, with the deadly left foot of Shaheen Miah despatching the ball into the net from long range for the goal they deserved.

However, hopes of taking the cup suffered a jolt in the

FOOTBALL

By John Bridgwater

first minute of the second half when substitute Stuart Polak found the net with a wonder strike from long range.

Morda still appeared to have the firepower to regain the lead with Jack Hughes heading narrowly wide from a Miah corner while no one was able to reach another accurate Miah cross.

But disaster struck midway through the half when Morda keeper Anthony Davies lost his footing when surging out of goal and Shifnal striker Dan Biggins pounced on the loose ball to fire home.

A Morda fightback still looked possible as a goal-bound Melussi shot was deflected off a defender for a corner but, despite the introduction of Dean Gra-

ham and Gareth Lewis, the equaliser failed to materialise and the cup went to Shifnal.

Morda's chance of the league title also disappeared last Saturday when Oaken-gates Athletic came back from two goals down to beat Madeley Sports and secure the crown.

Meanwhile, Morda's home fixture against Ketley Bank United last week did not take place with the visitors unable to field a side.

With it being so late in the season, it seems likely that the league officials will award Morda a 3-1 victory leaving them needing a point from their last game of the season away to Shifnal United 97 last night to claim runners-up spot in the league.

Stans new kit boost for St Martins



ST Martins footballers have been handed a boost with Stans Superstore sponsoring the West Midlands League division one club to the tune of £350 which will allow the club to purchase new kit and all weather jackets. Stans Superstore General Manager Justin Smart (centre) is seen with the new kit flanked by St Martins boss Ryan Butcher (left) and assistant Damon Cheesman (right).



Ellesmere Rangers' all-conquering youth side after their Umbro Cup win

Treble for Rangers

ELLESMERE'S youth team ended their terrific campaign by lifting the Umbro Shropshire FA Youth Cup for a fifth time with a comfortable 4-0 victory over Nova United at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow.

Victory sealed a remarkable treble for the youngsters who had earlier won both the Midland Floodlit Youth Cup and the Minor League Cup. Their success made it the perfect send-off for manager Dan Stevens who was taking his last game in charge after seven years with the team.

The Swans never looked back after Josh Parker notched the first from a Mike O'Reilly corner in the 12th minute before skipper Jay Stoker doubled the lead from the penalty spot midway through the half.

Will Twyford scored a solo effort early in the second half to make it 3-0 be-

fore Mike O'Reilly headed in after a Josh Brown surge down the left to seal a remarkable treble.

A few days before, runners-up Ellesmere ended their excellent campaign in the Midland Floodlit Youth League Premier North with a 2-1 victory against relegation threatened Greenhill at Beech Grove.

Stevens was naturally delighted by the success of his charges following his last game in charge of the team.

"Despite how tired all the players are, to finish off the season like this is outstanding," he said.

"Completing a treble and finishing runners-up in the Premier division in our first year is way beyond our targets set at the start of the season and I can only thank all the squad for their efforts."

Blake wins as record field races in time trial

WARM sunshine and an influx of cyclists from all around the county produced a record turnout of 59 riders for round three of the Stuart Barkley Cycles Time Trials series.

There were 23 solo riders with OO Tri's Oliver Blake taking his second win of the year in 23min 15sec.

Andy Howell was the fastest of the Oswestry Paragon riders crossing the line in 23:45 for second, while newcomer Charlie Burton's time of 25:36 was good enough for third, just one second ahead of Steve Roberts.

Fifth went to Chris Marrs of Mid Shropshire Wheelers, finishing in 26:01 to put him ahead of Simon Huninik of Marches CC (26:26) with Tom Brown a further second back. Eighth place went to Peter Davies of TriSmart in 26:53.

This week it was Steve Davies who got the better of Paragon teammate Neil Perry by just a second finishing ninth in 27:06.

Two women took part with Elizabeth Salisbury, riding on the Queens Head-Gobown course for the first time in several years, quickest in 30:39 finishing ahead of Elizabeth Breeze (32:53).

Tom Shelton of OO Tri was the fastest junior in 29:44 ahead of Samuel Davies (29:55).

Two of the Mid Shropshire Wheelers squad took the spoils in round two of the Hawk Plant 2-Up Series - and threw down a s warning.

It was 16-year-old George Evans and 17-year-old Jimmy Kershaw who came out on top, with the pair stopping the watch on 21:13 to take a clear win by over a minute.

New Series leaders Ed Middleton and Scott Harris of Nova Raiders charged around in 22:17. Third place went to the TriSmart pairing of Andrew Birch and Colin Elgie in 22:27, half a minute ahead of Alan Davies and Ian Spark (PSUK CRT/Freds).

In fifth were Nova Raiders team-mates Nick Pavard and Mark Harrison, who finished in 23:17 just four seconds ahead of another excellent pair of Mids' youngsters, 16-year-old Will Pickles and 14-year-old Devon Round.

Peter Thomas and Bryn Davies were the fastest of a strong contingent of Hafren CC riders finishing in 23-26.

Two mixed teams took part with Ceris Eslava and Gary Duncan(Marches CC/Paramount CRT) crossing the line in 25:06 and Tim Jones of Mid Shropshire Wheelers joining up with 14-year-old daughter Bethy to clock 30:54.

Coaching for kids

TNS are running a development centre for both boys and girls aged between eight and 14 with each session structured and delivered by a coach from the club.

There are currently 20 players signed on, but the centre, which runs from 4-5pm every Monday, is currently trying to expand and is hoping for more children to get involved.

Every player will get a kit and a squad number, while the centre is designed for players who want to play for fun or to develop onto the TNS Academy.

SPORT

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Ellesmere Juniors
in treble success
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Latest winners
at Henlle Park
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OSWESTRY Sports Desk 01743 283301

www.oswestrychronicle.com

Welshpool cricketers are hoping to hit back

WELSHPOOL'S cricketers will be out to steady the ship in Saturday's home clash with Broseley after slipping into the lower regions of the Shropshire League division one, writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER**.

A young Pool side were skittled for just 60 in response to 189-9 to suffer a hefty 129-run loss at Lilleshall, but this weekend's visitors could again prove tough opposition as they lie second in the table.

Last week's clash started well enough for the Maesydre side, who bowled tightly before Lilleshall broke the shackles with a terrific innings from Adam Copsey who smashed an undefeated 86 after coming in at No8.

Tom Anderson finished with 3-59, Dan McWhinnie took 2-32 and Rob Pengelly 2-55.

Welshpool were soon in trouble in reply and were shot out for a paltry 60 in 25 overs, No8 Pengelly providing the lone resistance with 22 not out.

Will Askin was chief destroyer with 6-20 off 12.2 overs, while he was well supported by Steve Pedley who finished with 4-16.

Vaughan in double joy at COBRA

FULL-BACK Iwan Vaughan bagged a double success at COBRA rugby club's annual dinner and presentation night held at Newtown's Elephant and Castle.

Some 140 players, officials, family and friends attended the function as the Meifod club reflected on their first season in the Swalec League division one (north).

And Vaughan came away with two of the top awards, being named the club's player of the year as well as taking the players' player accolade.

Fullback Richard Jones was the most improved player, back row Toby Twigg was young player of the year and Hywel Jones was the highest try scorer.

Scrum half Harry Jukes also had two reasons to celebrate after taking both the youth team's player of the season and players' player award.

COBRA, meanwhile, hold their annual general meeting at the clubhouse on Tuesday, June 10 (7.30).

TNS plot Euro adventure Llanfair up for the fight

AFTER re-signing most of last season's title winning squad, The New Saints director of football Craig Harrison says he can now focus on preparing for this summer's Champions League assignment.

"It was important to get the players signed up as quickly as possible so that work on pre-season can begin," he said.

"The biggest thing for me is that we can now get on with our preparation for pre-season and plan ahead. I have had the opportunity to look ahead.

"It was great winning the Welsh Premier League in April and that has given us time to prepare for Europe. It has obviously been a bit of a pain not knowing if we will be in the first or second qualifying round, but it

has been confirmed that we are in the second qualifying round, so we can now get on with it and wait for our opponents."

The draw for the Champions League qualifying rounds will take place in Geneva on Monday June, 23. The second qualifying round first leg will be played on July 15/16 and the return leg the following week.

■ Highly-rated youngster Ryan Kershaw has put pen to paper on a one year contract with Welsh Premier champions The New Saints

The midfielder, who is now 18, has been with the Saints since the age of 15 and has come through the TNS Academy, making his professional debut against Afan Lido in 2013.

LLANFAIR United boss Rhys Stephens anticipates a far sterner test in the Spar Mid Wales League division one next season despite exceeding expectations by finishing runners-up this term.

Newly promoted to the first division, United just missed out to champions Llandrindod Wells after the title was decided on the last day, while they also lifted the Central Wales Cup for the first time with a 2-0 win over Berriew in the final.

Next season, Llanfair will naturally start as one of the favourites, although Stephens remains cool about his side's prospects.

"A summer is a long time, and you don't know what is going to happen with players," he said. "But the league is going to be far

stronger next season with Penrhynoch and Llanrhaeadr both coming down from the Cymru Alliance, while Welshpool and Berriew are both expected to strengthen.

"Realistically, it is going to be tough for us to repeat what we have achieved this season in the league, but you never know."

BERRIEW'S season had a silver lining as they landed the Spar Mid Wales League Cup after overcoming Bow Street 2-1 in the final at Llandrindod Wells.

After the disappointment of losing to Llanfair United in the final of the Central Wales Cup a few days before, they finished the campaign with some silverware with second half goals from Elliot Jones and Karl Seliearts.

Whittington maintain their early pace at top of the table

WHITTINGTON maintained their early challenge in the Oswestry and District Bowls League division one with a 9-1 (165-117) hammering of Flexsys A.

Despite a first defeat of the season for skipper Aled Davies (21-18), the hosts stormed to victory with Julian Turner taking the copers to 12.

Unbeaten CRIFTINS A continue to ride high after their narrow 6-4 (24 shots) home win over Ceiriog Valley A, while Ruabon A are also going well, beating Chirk A 8-2 (150-115).

CHURCH A succumbed 7-3 (146-131) at Cynwyd A. Brian Canlett their best winner to 15 while Martin Jones and Wendy Humphreys both won to 15.

Bottom club LLANYMYNECH crashed 9-1 (165-90) at Corwen, their lone win coming from Keith Bacon (21-18).

It was a disappointing night in division two for LLANRAEADR A who were thumped 9-1 (164-99) at high riding Llangollen A, Emyr Roberts (21-17) gaining their consolation.

But CHURCH B boosted their fortunes with a 7-3 (144-132) home win over CRIFTINS C as they look to climb off the foot of the table, husband and wife Merv and Cheryl Weaver both winning to nine.

Mid-table WESTON RHYN A suffered a closely-fought 6-4 defeat at Overton A, losing the aggregate by just five shots (147-142).

The visitors had just one winner in the front, Sue Taylor 21-17, but hit back in the back four with three winners, with Andrew Riley and Derek Taylor both prevailing to 13.

CRIFTINS B suffered a 7-3 (154-107) loss at Llangynog A, Dave Jones their best to nine, while YE OLDE CROFTE A saw off Johnstown C 8-2.

Fixtures for Tuesday May 27 - Div One: Ceiriog Valley A v Corwen A, Chirk A v Cynwyd A, Church A v Johnstown B, Flexsys A v Ruabon A, Johnstown A v Criftins A, Llanymynech A v Whittington A, Div Two: Criftins B v Church B, George v Ye Old Crofte A, Llanrhaeadr A v Black Lion, Weston Rhynd A v Llangynog A.

OSWESTRY LOOK FOR WIN-BONUS

by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY skipper Mark Robinson is calling for his side to up their game in Saturday's trip to Old Hill as they chase much-needed points in the Birmingham Cricket League division one.

Last week's 20-run defeat at Moseley left the Morda Road side third from bottom, one point and two places below this weekend's hosts who lost by nine runs to Harborne last week.

Although still relatively early in the season, Robinson has identified the visit to Old Hill as a crucial encounter for his charges who, having won on the opening day, have since suffered two defeats and an abandonment.

"The defeat at Moseley makes Saturday's game very important," he said. "If we win, it will make it two wins and two defeats, and we'll be somewhere middle in the table.

"But if we lose it will be just one win and three losses, and we may have to re-set our targets.

"As a team we are disappointed as we feel that we could have won all three games we've played, but we're not downhearted. We all know we are better than our performances, so individually we need to go away and put our own games in order."

Good position

Oswestry looked to have Moseley's batsmen in check last week, debutant Matt Gregson taking two wickets with his first three balls for the club, but their hosts managed to get away late in the innings to post 191-7.

The visitors then lost early wickets in their reply, and were dismissed for 171 to fall 20 runs short despite an excellent 71 by Joe Clarke. No-one else in the top six of the order reached double figures.

"It was very similar to the Wolverhampton game a few weeks before," said Robinson. "We worked really hard in the field to get into a good position, but then let them off the hook a bit. Even so, we felt it was a total we could chase down.

"There was a great innings from Joe, he was scoring freely and didn't look in trouble, and we just needed someone to stay with him. Although we can still improve with the ball, it is the batting that has really let us down in the three games."

Oswestry are likely to make a couple of changes for the weekend, with Alex Huxley set to return.

Morda Road a picture for Shropshire KO clash



Blue skies at Oswestry, but Shropshire's cricketers came second best in the KO clash. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

SHROPSHIRE were on the receiving end of two Cheshire centuries as they were well beaten by 127 runs in their third Unicorns Knockout Trophy group game at Oswestry - but victory at Cumberland next weekend will see them qualify for the quarter finals.

Both Rick Moore and Warren

Goodwin reached three figures in the Morda Road sunshine as Cheshire racked up an imposing 312-7 from 50 overs.

Ed Foster and Omar Ali both hit half centuries in the Shropshire reply but it was not enough to prevent the hosts from being dismissed for 185.

"It's still in our own hands and if we win at Cumberland we will qualify," said Brian Foxall, Shropshire's chairman of selectors.

"It wasn't a great day against Cheshire and we were outplayed in all departments. We couldn't contain them."

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